

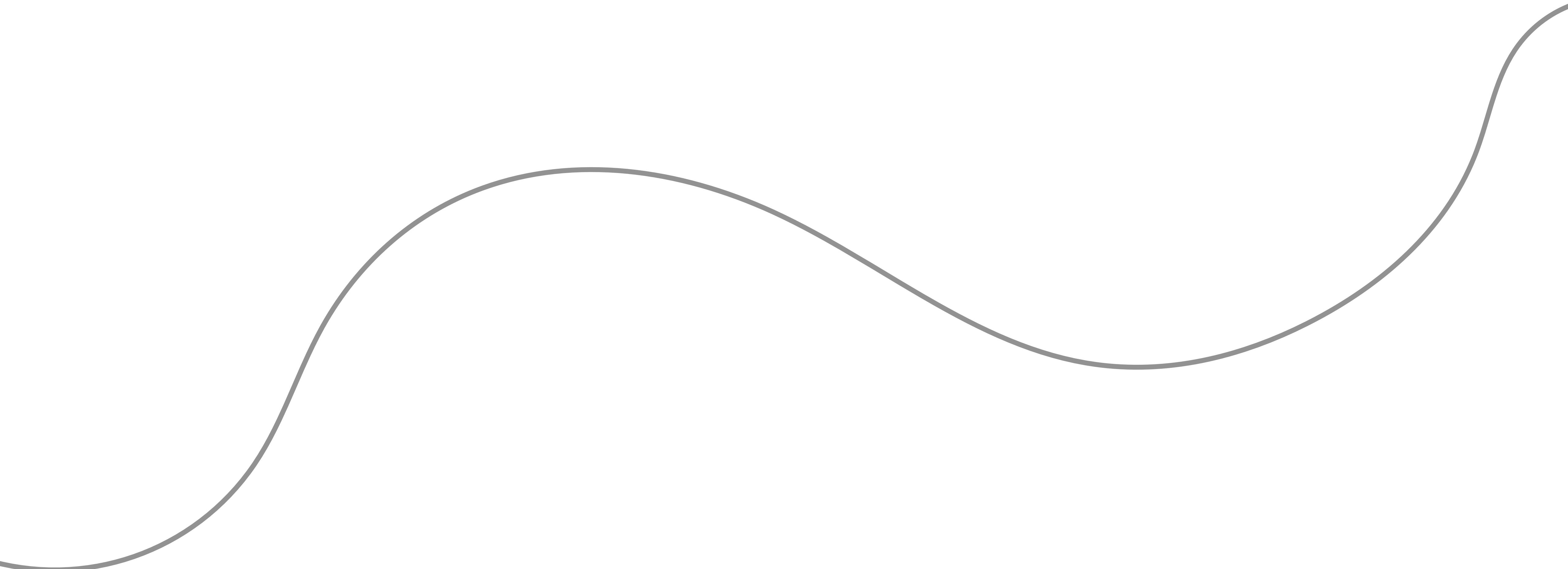
Inferring interactions from camera trap data with the multivariate Hawkes process

Lisa Nicvert

 @lisanicvert.bsky.social
 Lisa Nicvert

FRB-CESAB, Montpellier

About me



About me



Lyon, France



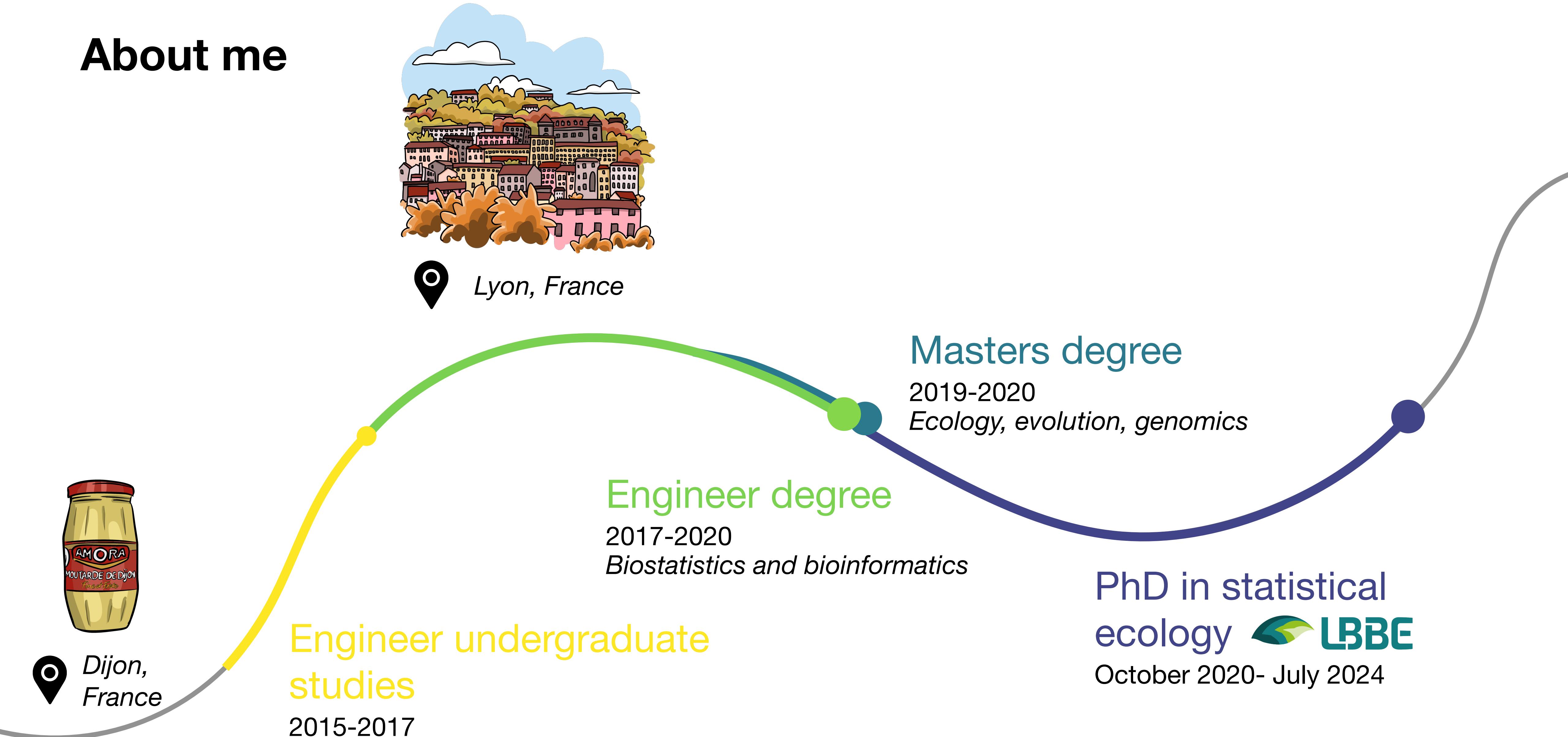
Dijon,
France

Engineer undergraduate
studies
2015-2017

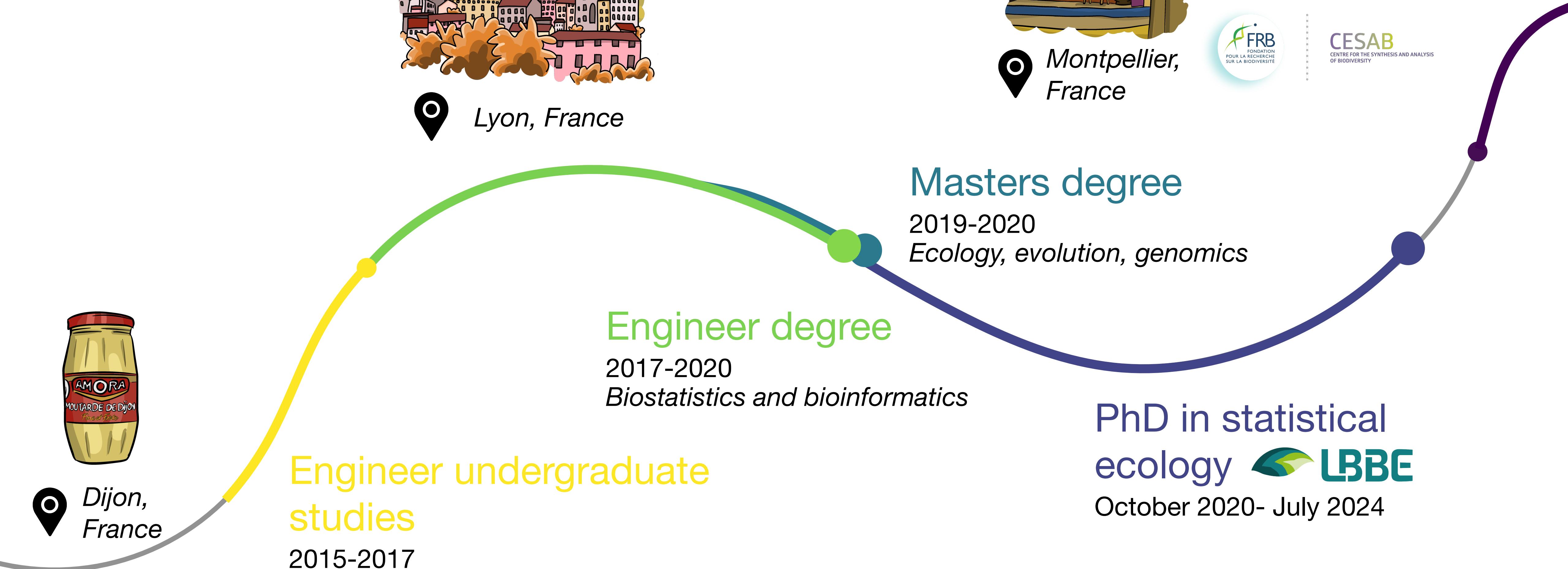
Engineer degree
2017-2020
Biostatistics and bioinformatics

Masters degree
2019-2020
Ecology, evolution, genomics

About me



About me



PhD in statistical ecology

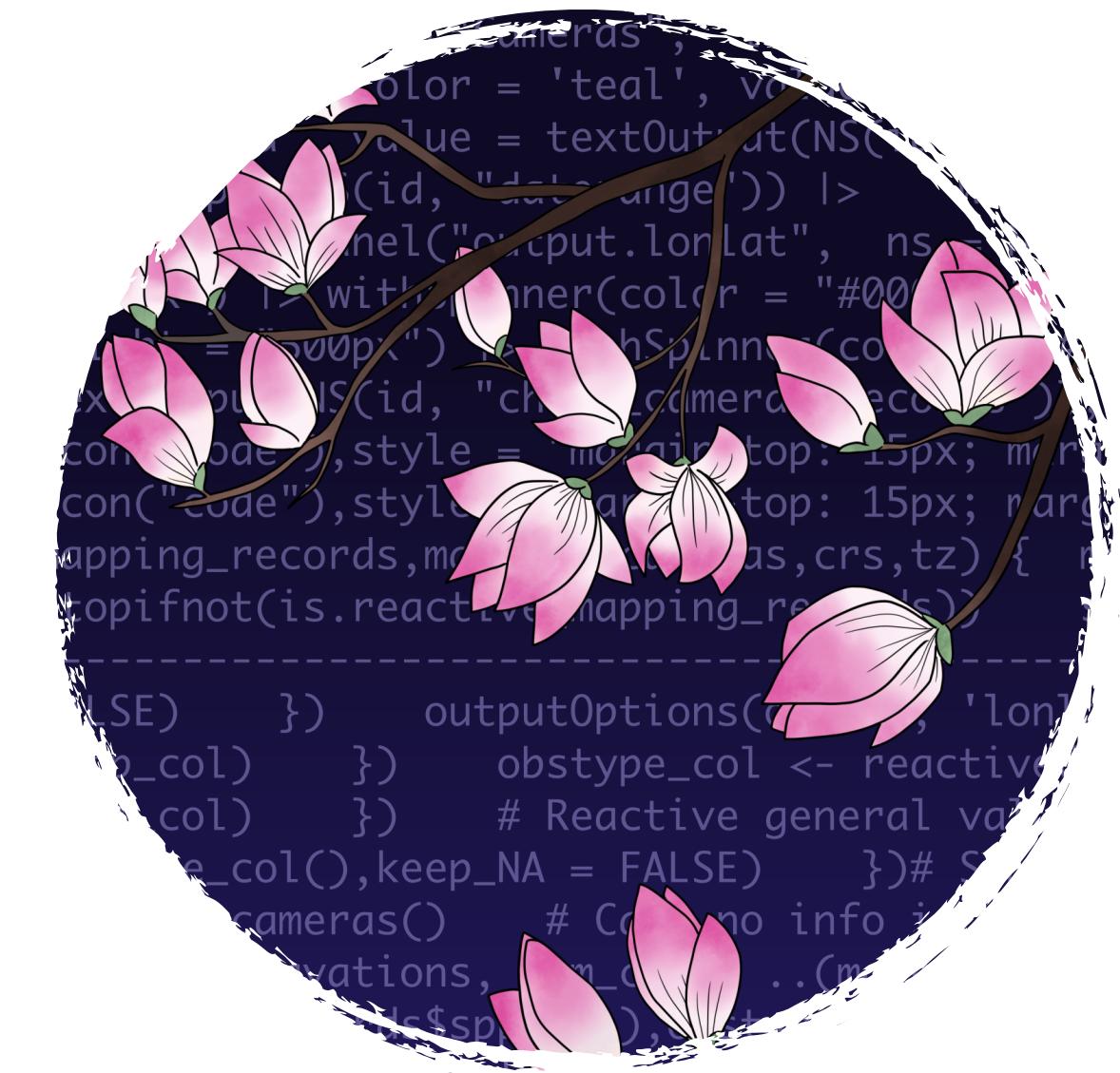


*Statistical methods and software tools to analyze and infer ecological networks
and process multi-species data*

PhD in statistical ecology



*Statistical methods and software tools to analyze and infer ecological networks
and process multi-species data*

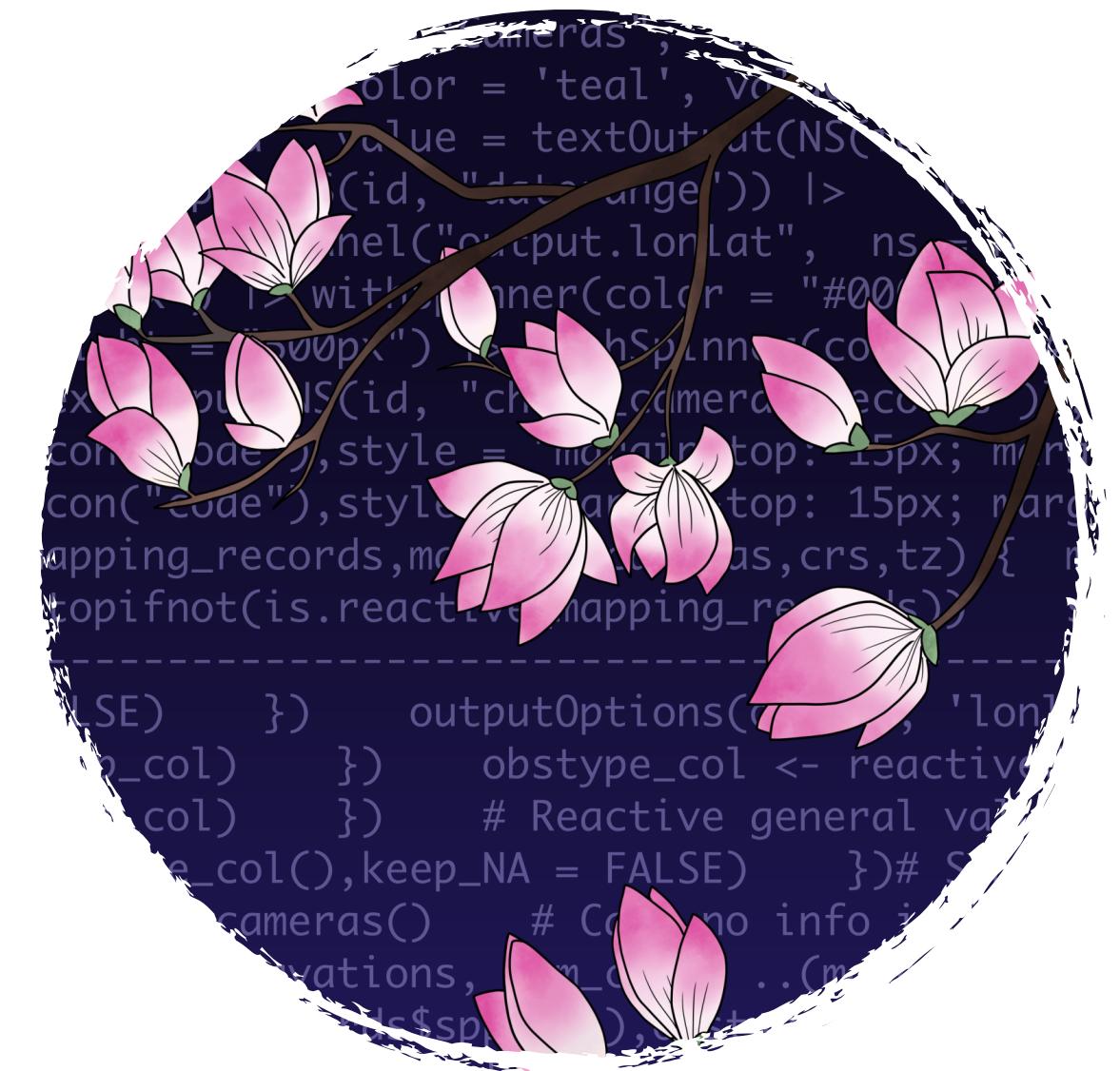


PhD in statistical ecology



*Statistical methods and software tools to analyze and infer ecological networks
and process multi-species data*

Trait matching
in ecological networks



PhD in statistical ecology

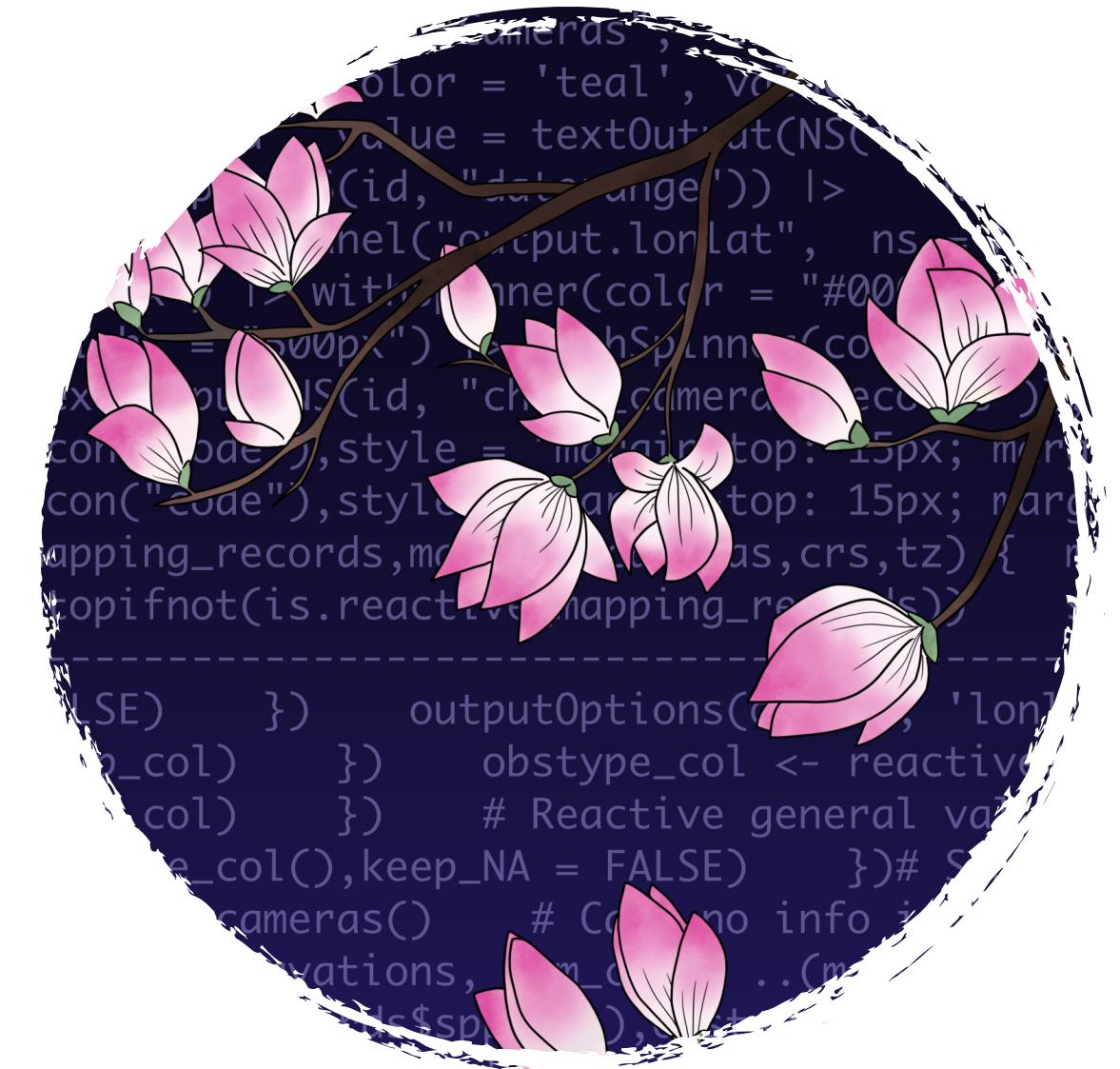


*Statistical methods and software tools to analyze and infer ecological networks
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Trait matching
in ecological networks



Attraction-avoidance
between species



PhD in statistical ecology



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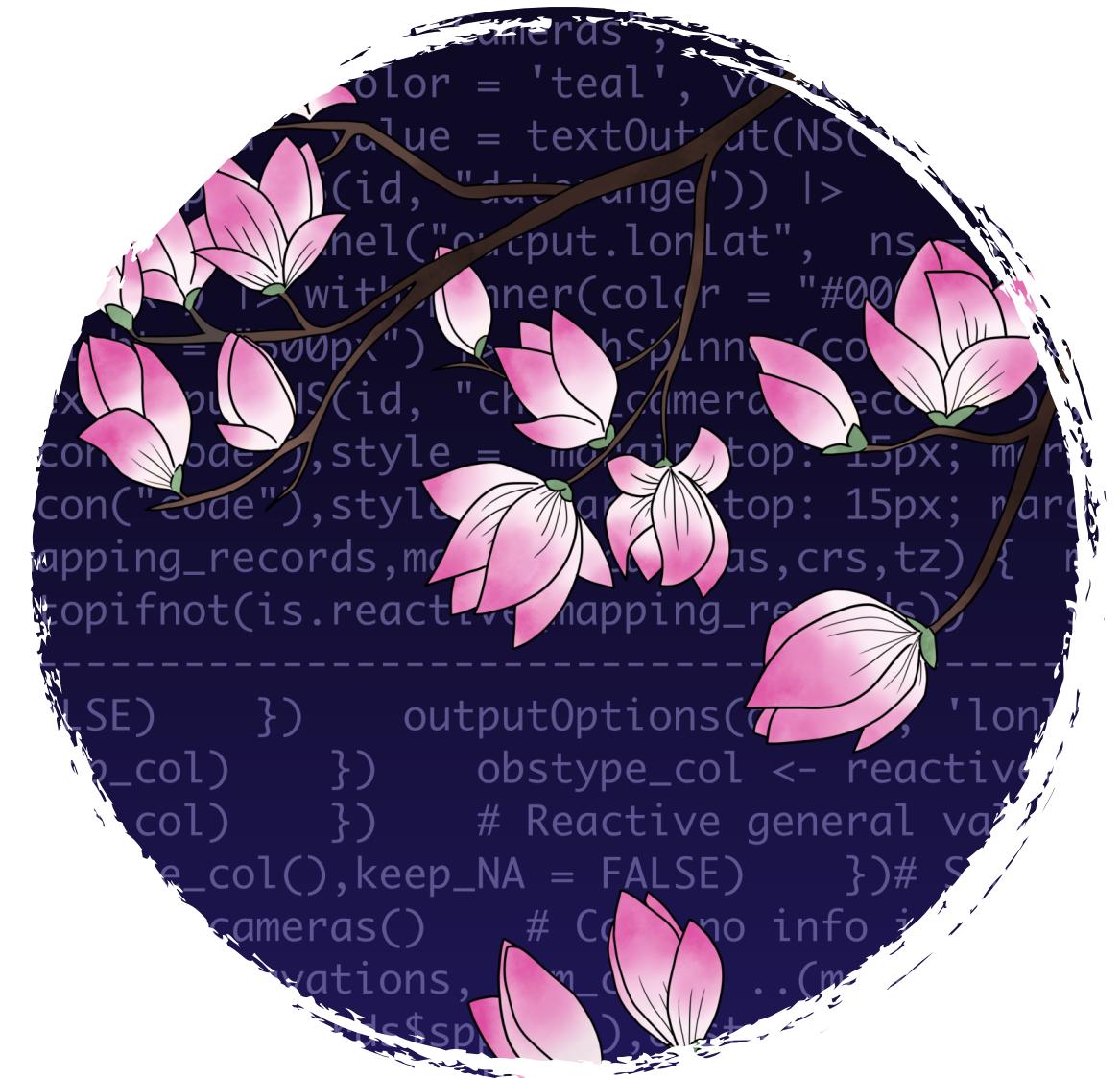
Trait matching
in ecological networks



Attraction-avoidance
between species



Software tools to
analyze ecological data



PhD in statistical ecology



*Statistical methods and software tools to analyze and infer ecological networks
and process multi-species data*



ARTICLE

ECOLOGY
ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Using the multivariate Hawkes process to study interactions between multiple species from camera trap data

Lisa Nicvert¹ | Sophie Donnet² | Mark Keith³ | Mike Peel^{4,5,6} |
Michael J. Somers³ | Lourens H. Swanepoel⁷ | Jan Venter^{8,9} |
Hervé Fritz^{9,10} | Stéphane Dray¹

Introduction

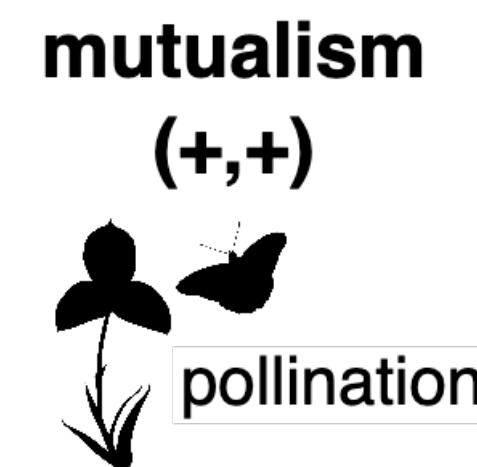
Interspecific interactions

= effect of a species on another one

Introduction

Interspecific interactions

= effect of a species on another one



Introduction

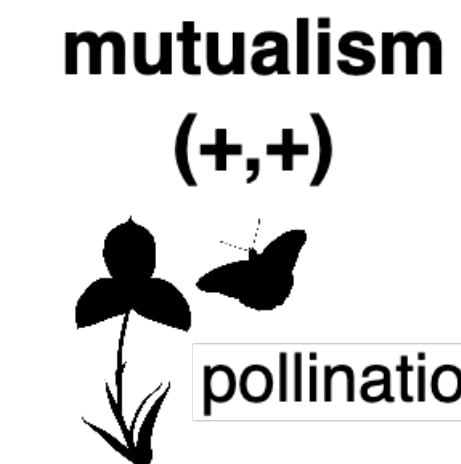
Interspecific interactions

= effect of a species on another one



predation

(+,-)



mutualism

(+,+)

pollination

Introduction

Interspecific interactions

= effect of a species on another one



predation

(+,-)

mutualism
(+,+)



pollination

competition

(-,-)



Introduction

Interspecific interactions

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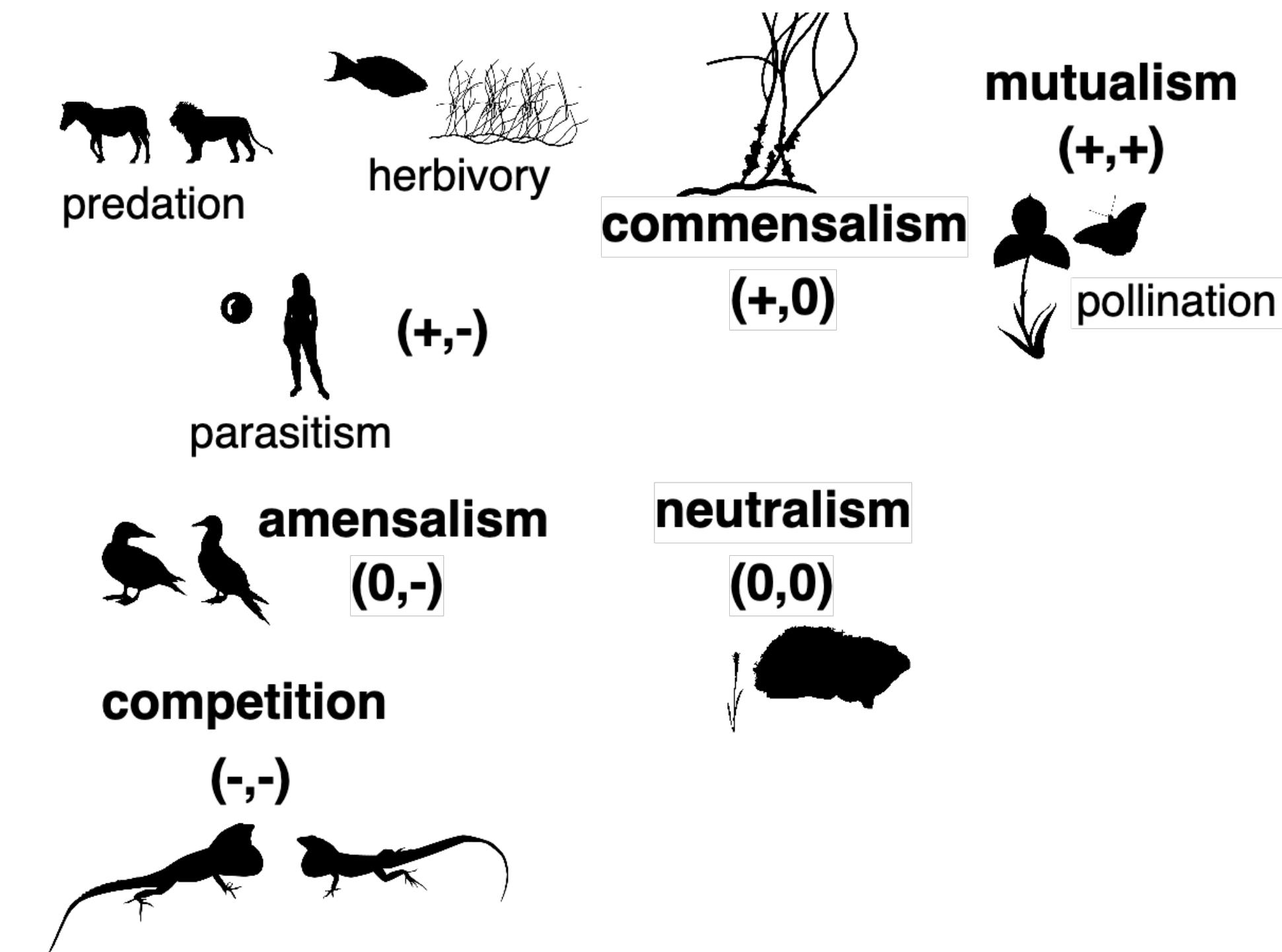


Figure 1.3 from my PhD thesis. Silhouette images from Phylopic by Andy Wilson (*Meneris tulbaghia*), Beth Reinke (*Nazca booby*), Jon Hill (*blue-footed booby*), Jonathan Wells (*Plasmodium falciparum*), and NASA (*Homo sapiens sapiens*), others are in the public domain.

Introduction

Interspecific interactions

= effect of a species on another one

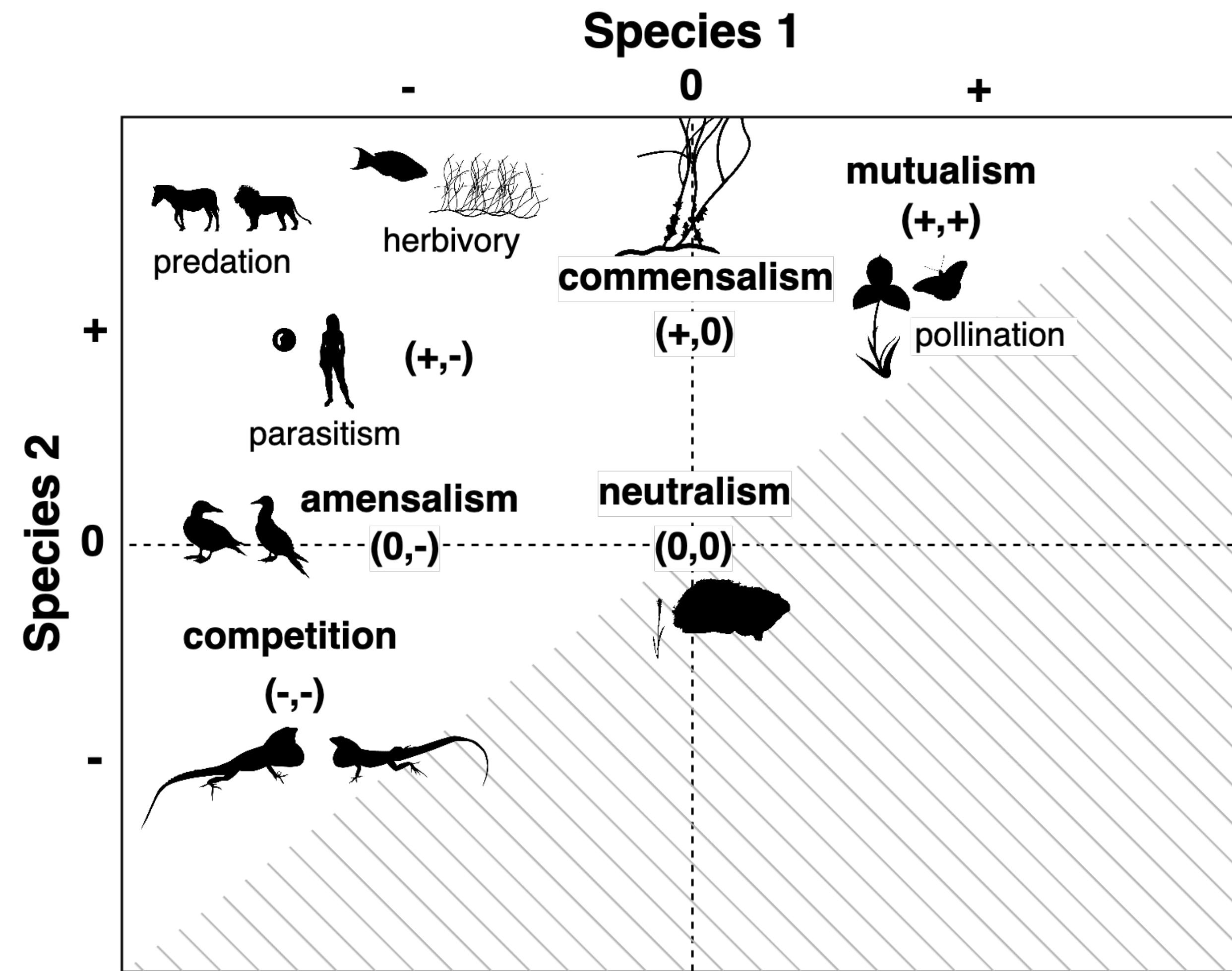


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Introduction Interactions and species distributions

Interactions → distributions?

Introduction Interactions and species distributions

Interactions → distributions?

Diamond's checkerboard pattern

Diamond 1975

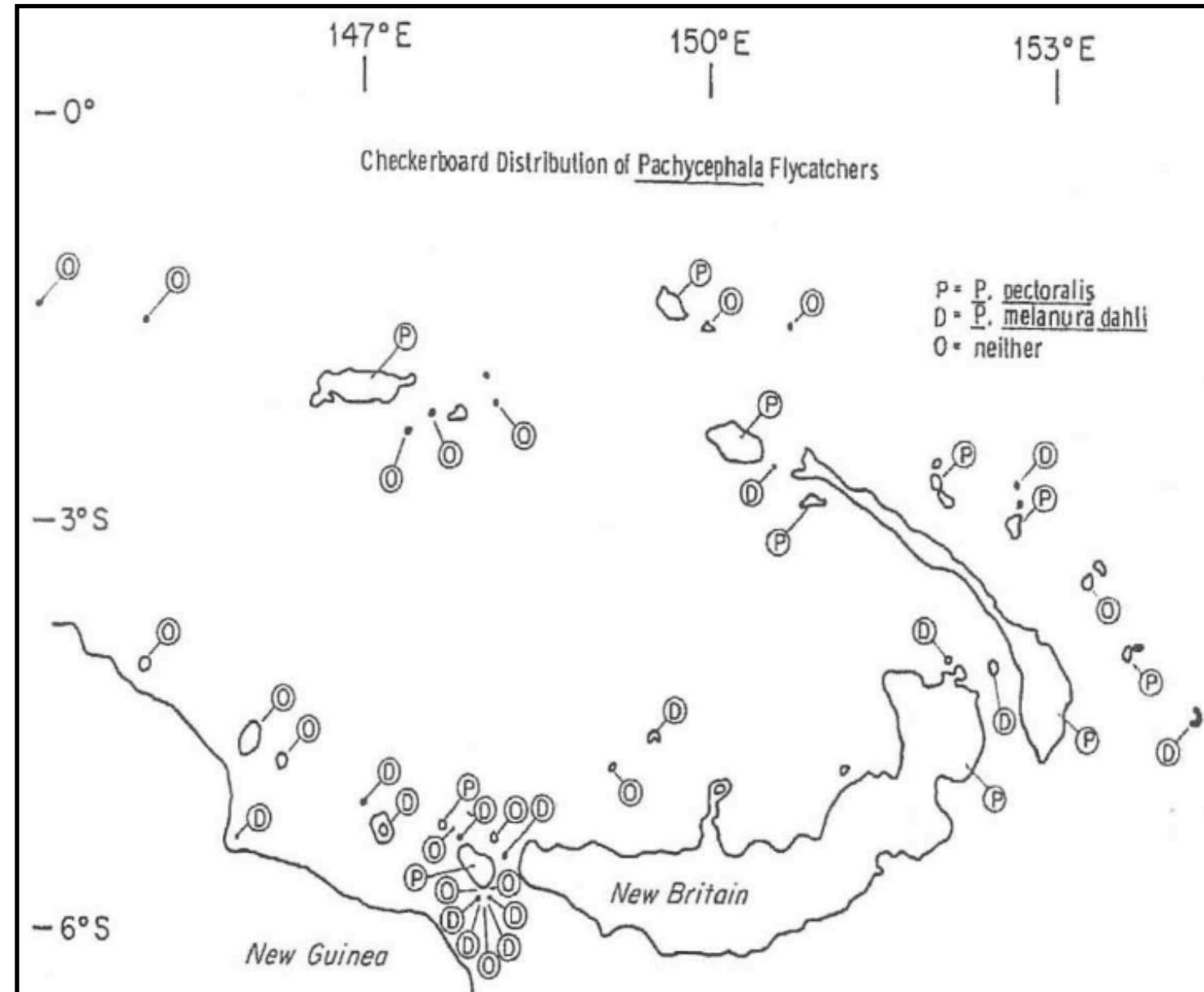


Figure 21 from Diamond, 1975

Introduction Interactions and species distributions

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Diamond 1975

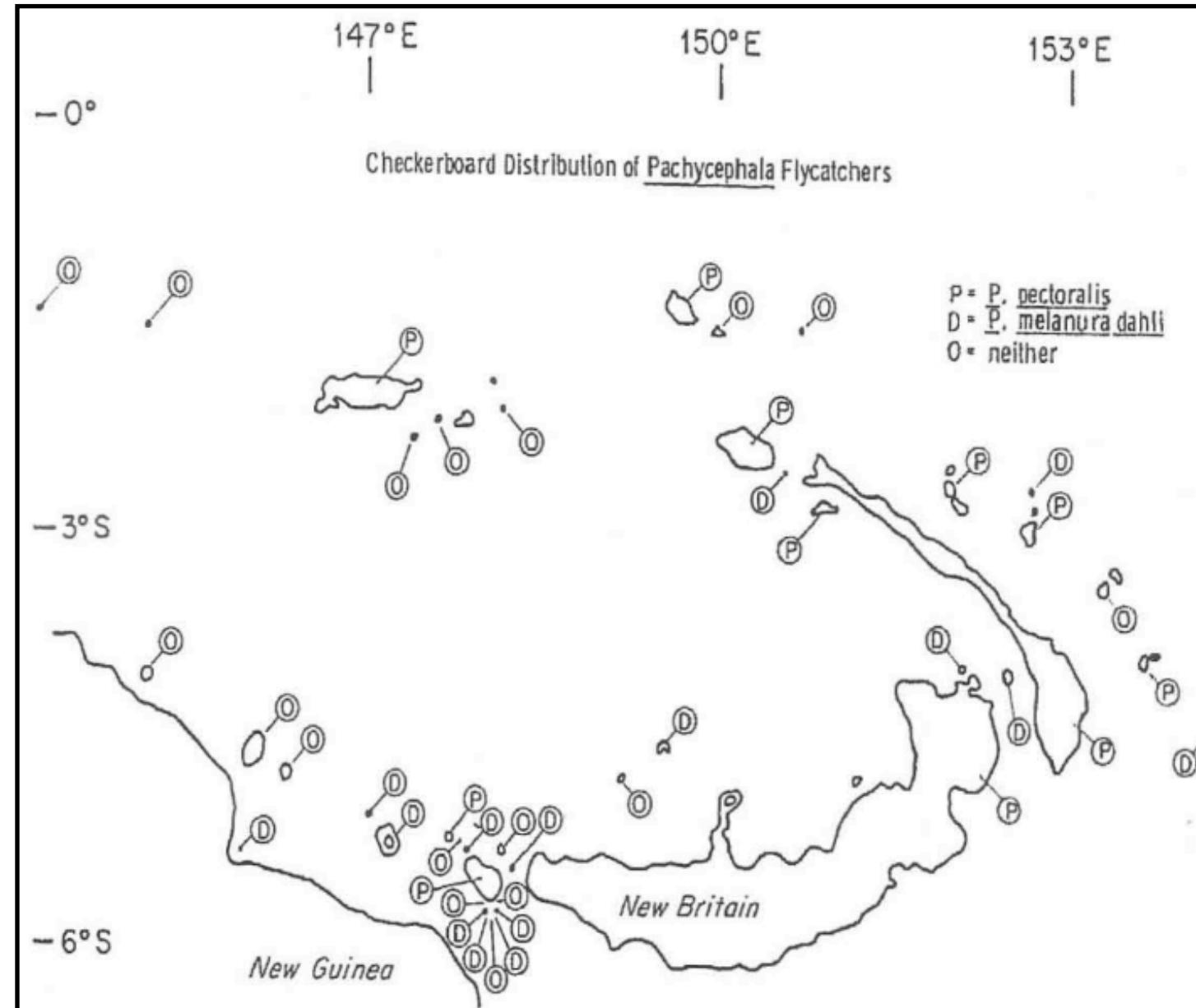


Figure 21 from Diamond, 1975

THE ASSEMBLY OF SPECIES COMMUNITIES: CHANCE OR COMPETITION?¹

EDWARD F. CONNOR^{2,3}

Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia,
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903 USA

AND

DANIEL SIMBERLOFF

Department of Biological Sciences, Florida State University,
Tallahassee, Florida 32306 USA

The checkered history of checkerboard distributions

EDWARD F. CONNOR,^{1,4} MICHAEL D. COLLINS,² AND DANIEL SIMBERLOFF³

¹Department of Biology, San Francisco State University, 1600 Holloway Avenue, San Francisco, California 94132 USA

²Department of Biology, Rhodes College, Memphis, Tennessee 38112 USA

³Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996 USA



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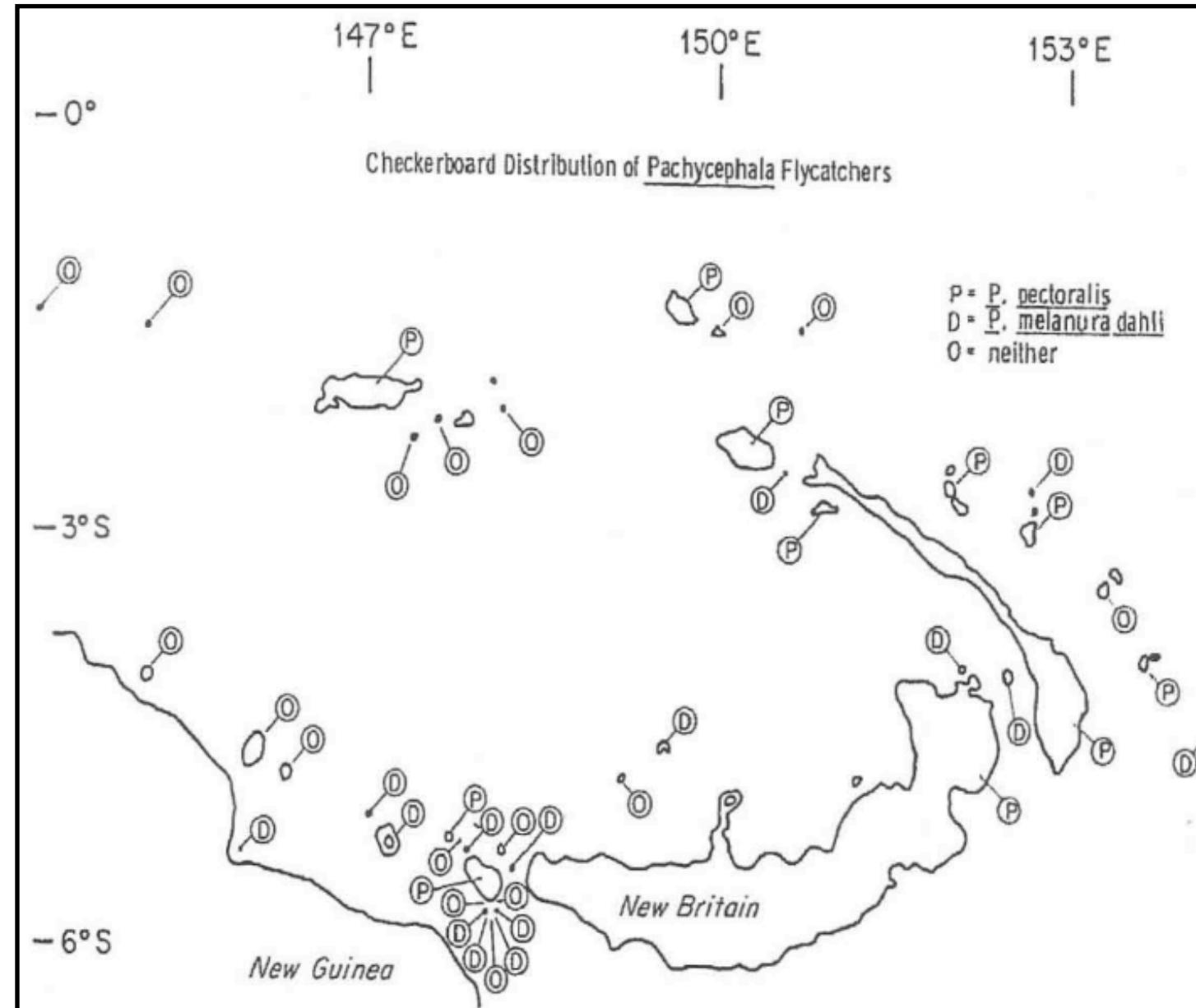


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The checkered history of
checkerboard distributions: comment

JARED DIAMOND,¹ STUART L. PIMM,^{2,4} AND JAMES G.
SANDERSON³

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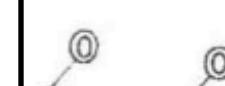
Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia,
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903 USA

Diamond

Diamond 1

14°S

-0°



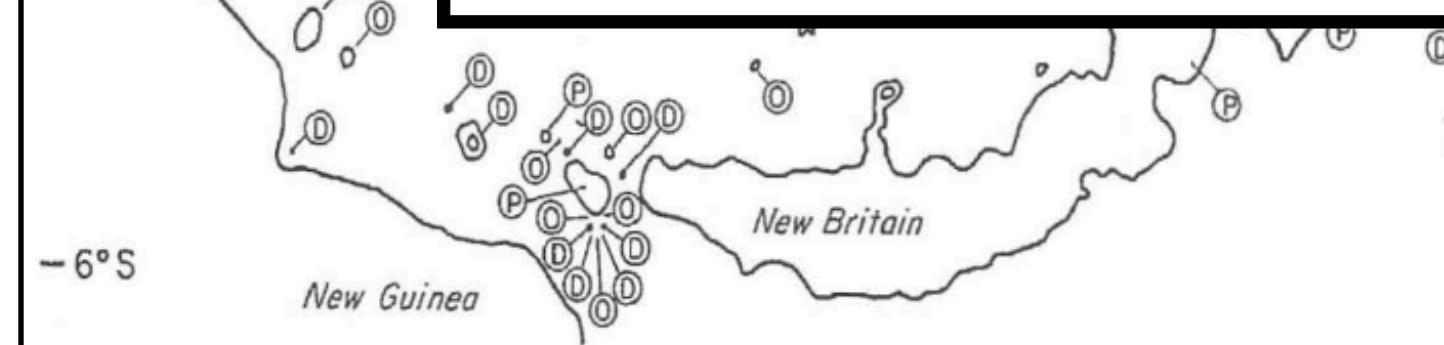
Ideas and Perspectives

-3°S



Co-occurrence is not evidence of ecological interactions

F. Guillaume Blanchet✉, Kevin Cazelles, Dominique Gravel

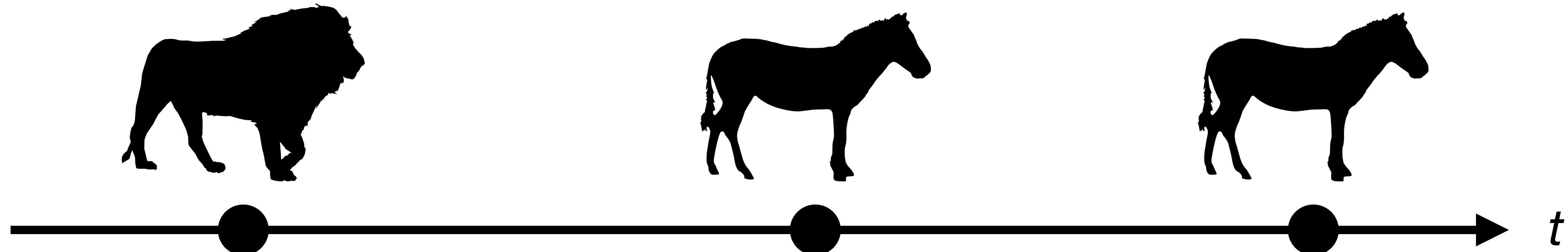


JARED DIAMOND,¹ STUART L. PIMM,^{2,4} AND JAMES G.
SANDERSON³

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Introduction Interactions and species distributions

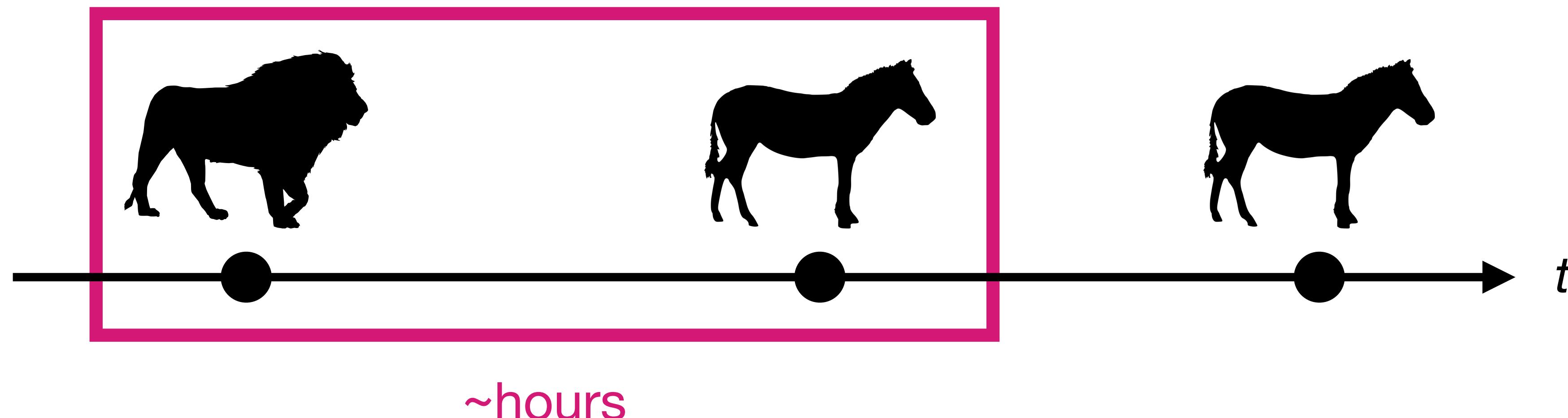
Interactions → distributions?



Introduction Interactions and species distributions

Interactions → distributions?

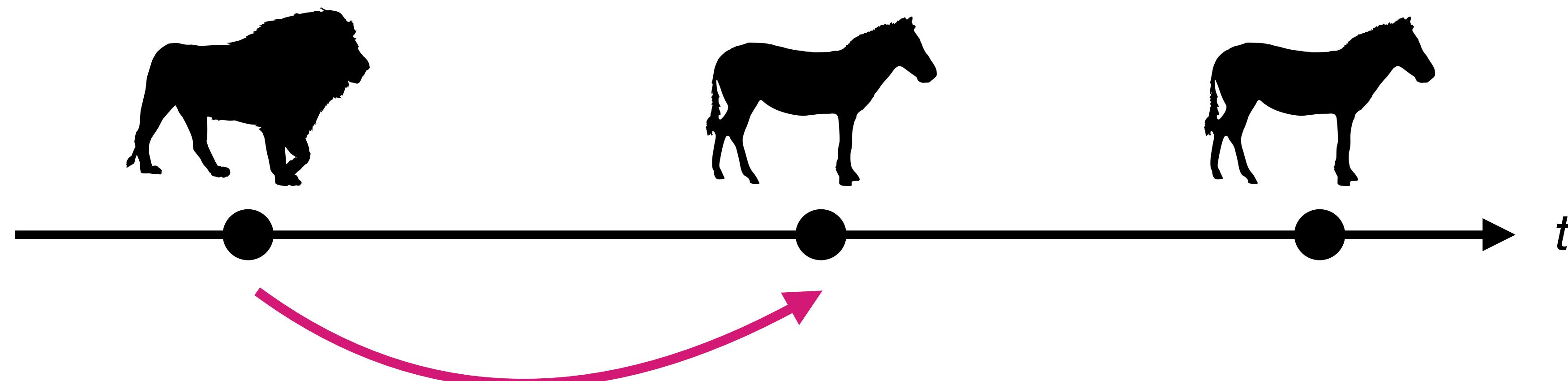
1. Smaller temporal scale



Introduction Interactions and species distributions

Interactions → distributions?

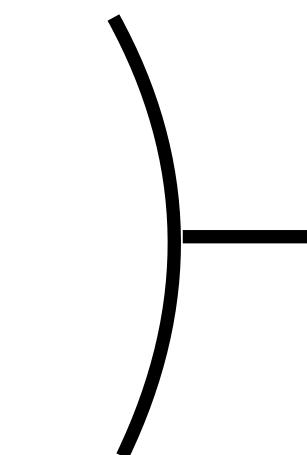
1. Smaller temporal scale
2. Process-based approach



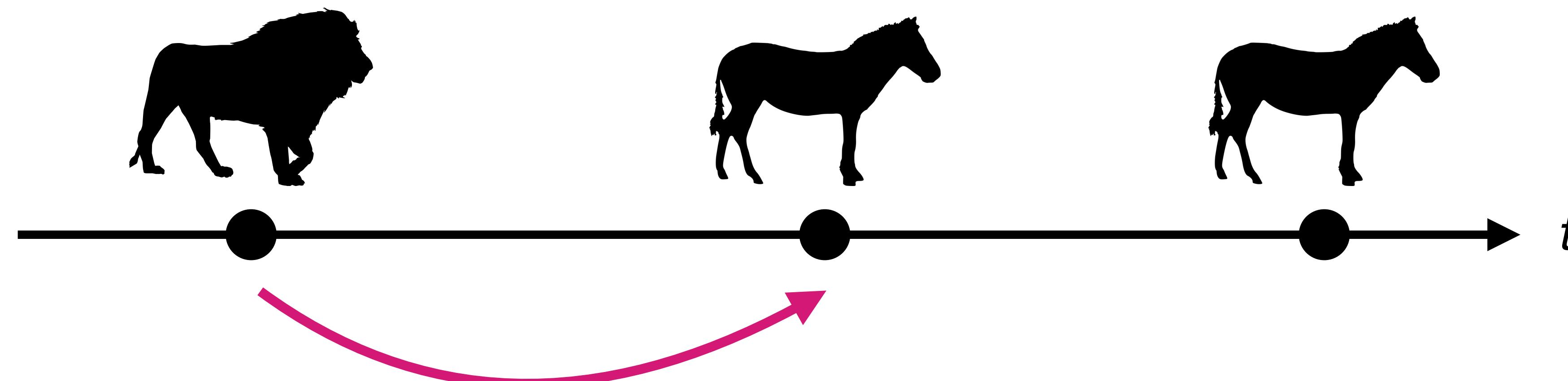
Introduction Interactions and species distributions

Interactions → distributions?

1. Smaller temporal scale
2. Process-based approach



Infer interactions = effect of a species on the **distribution** of another one



Introduction

Camera traps

= cameras with automated trigger



Camera trap in the Karoo National
parc (South Africa) © Own picture

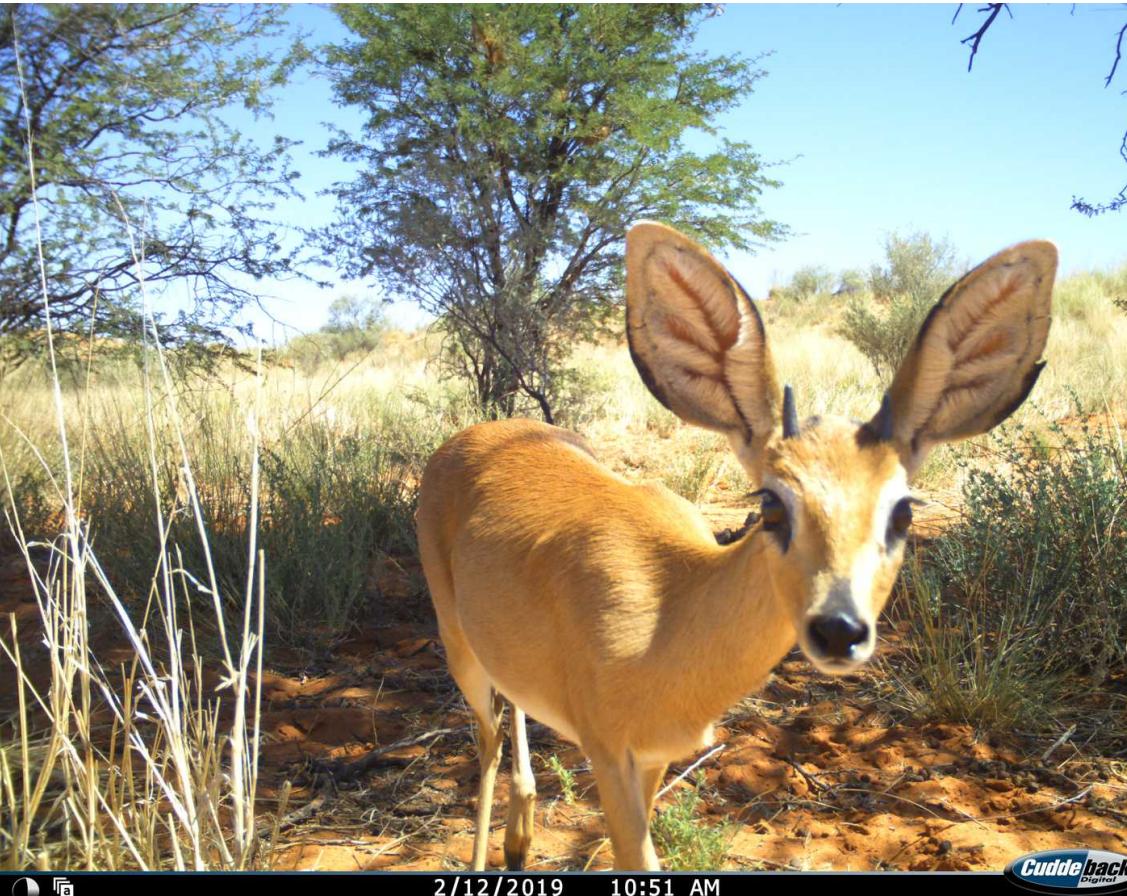
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Camera trap in the Karoo National
parc (South Africa) © Own picture



Steenbok © Snapshot Safari



Part of a steenbok © Snapshot Safari

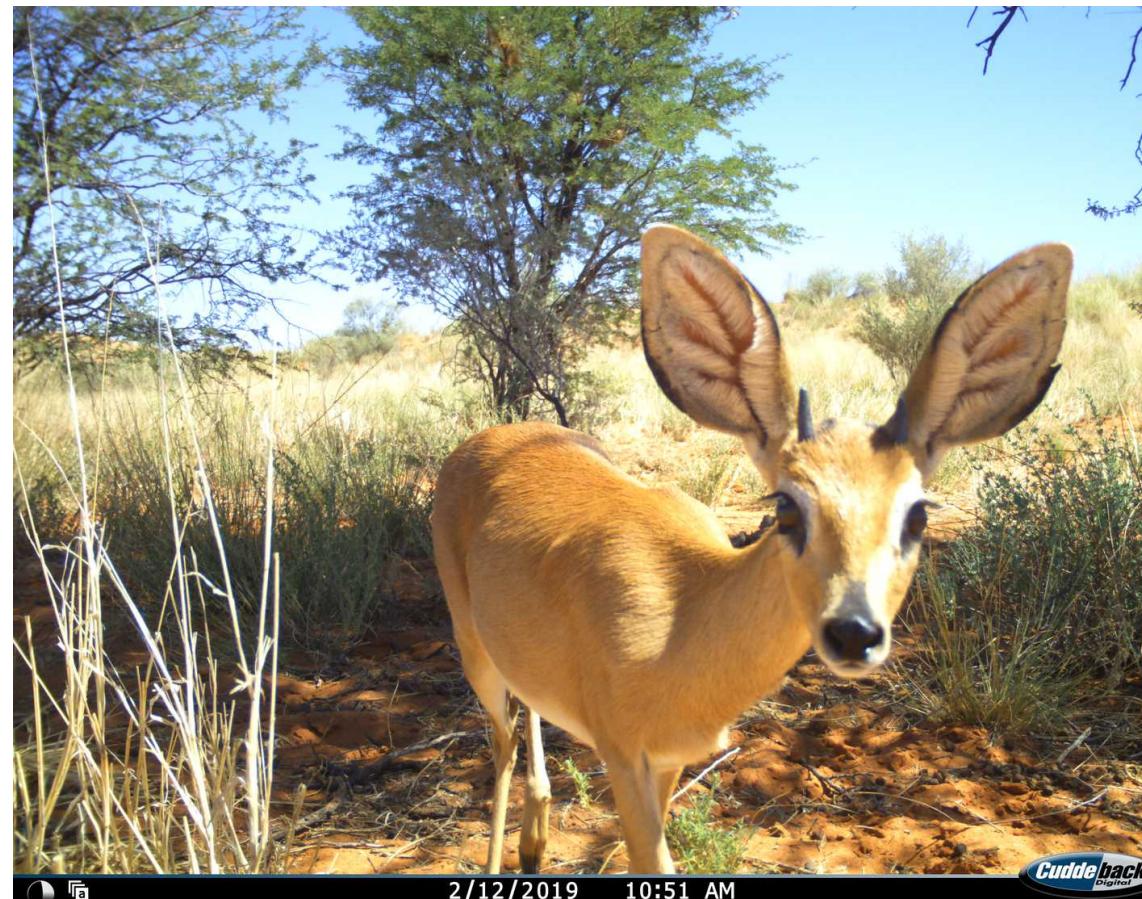
Introduction

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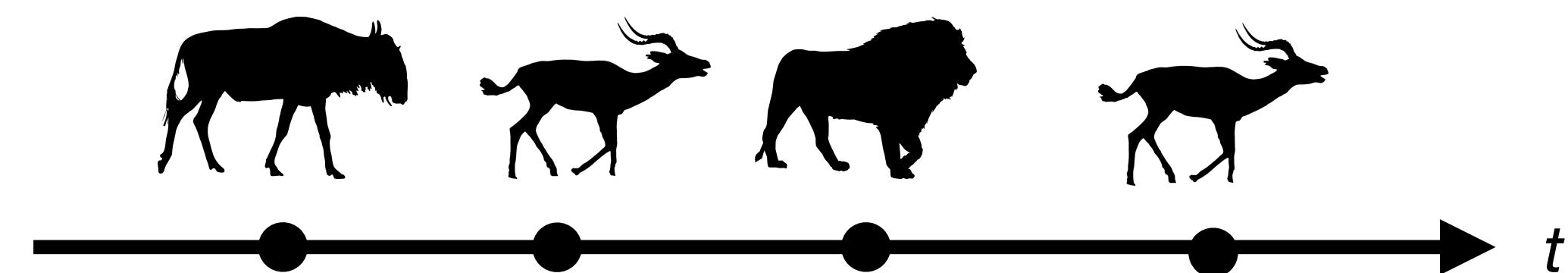
Camera trap in the Karoo National
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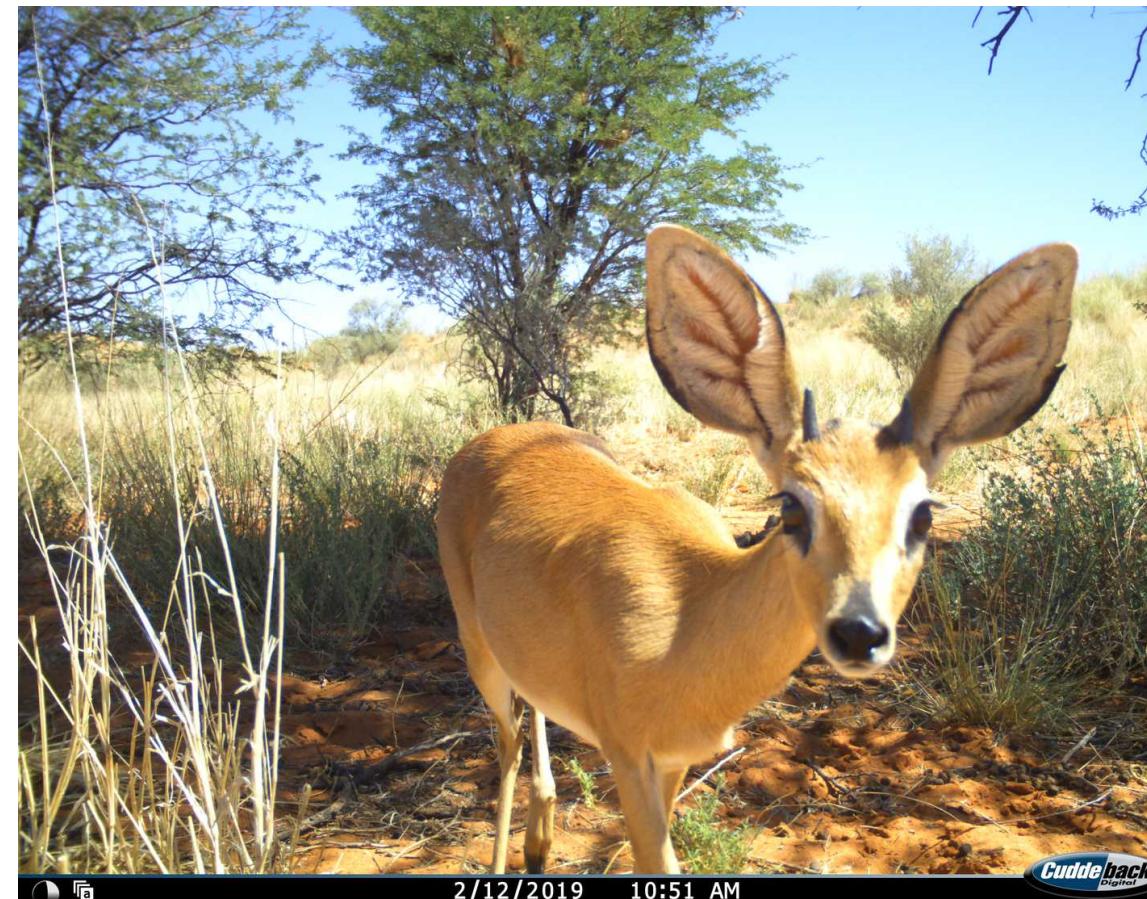
Introduction

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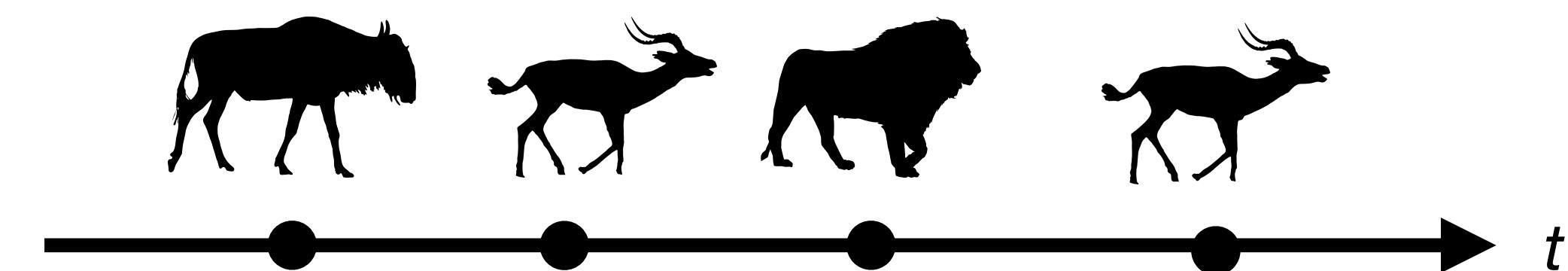
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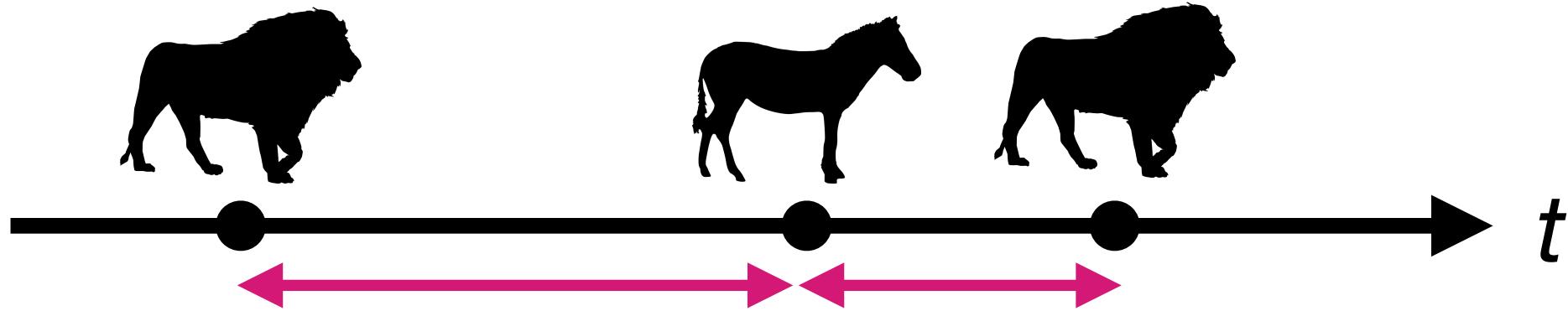
Continuous-time + multi-species data

Introduction

Existing methods

Introduction

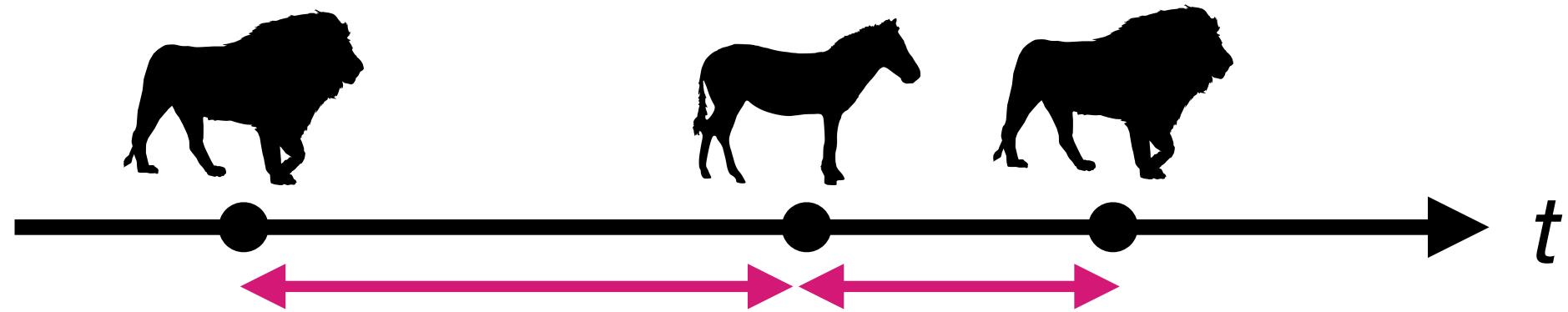
Existing methods



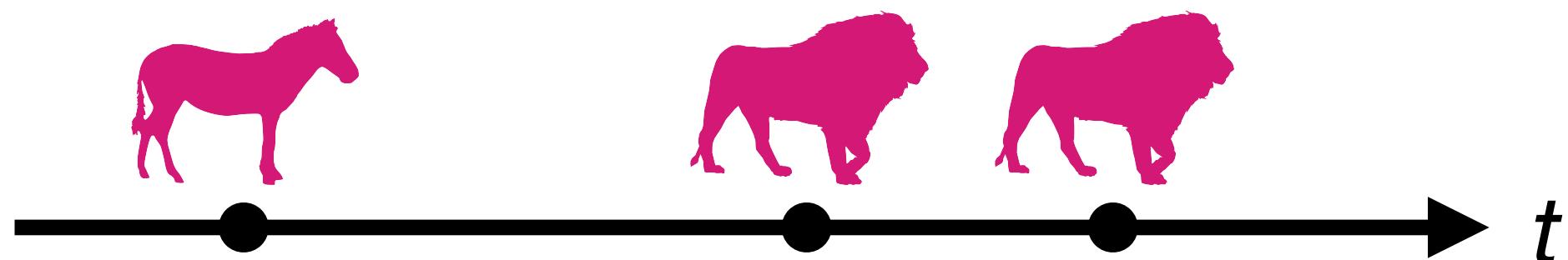
Time intervals *Harmsen et
al. 2009, Parsons et al. 2016*

Introduction

Existing methods



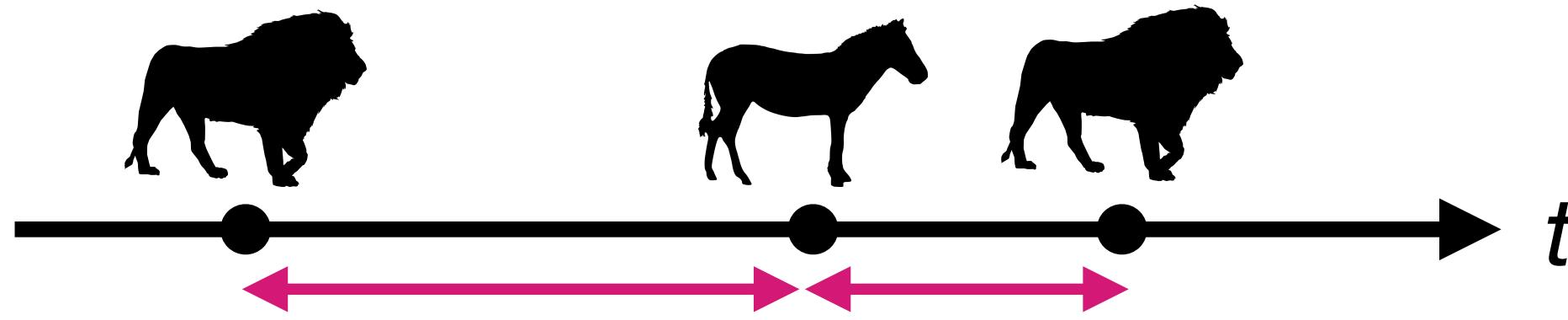
Time intervals *Harmsen et
al. 2009, Parsons et al. 2016*



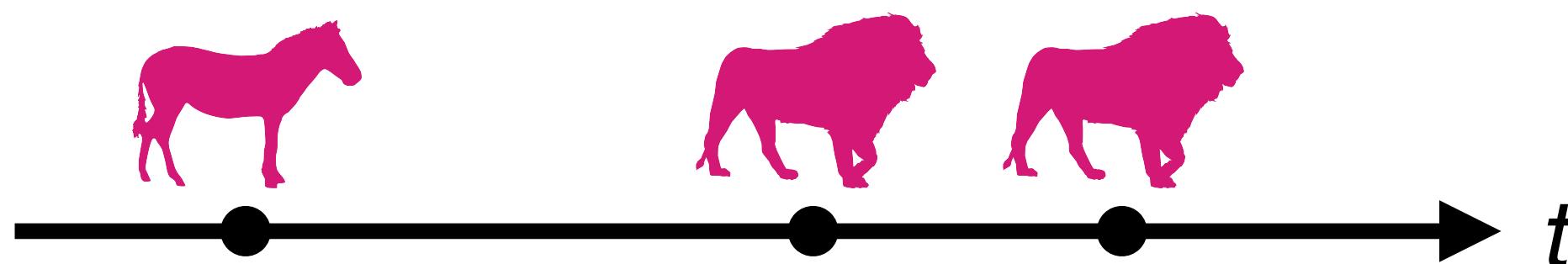
Permutations *Murphy et
al. 2021*

Introduction

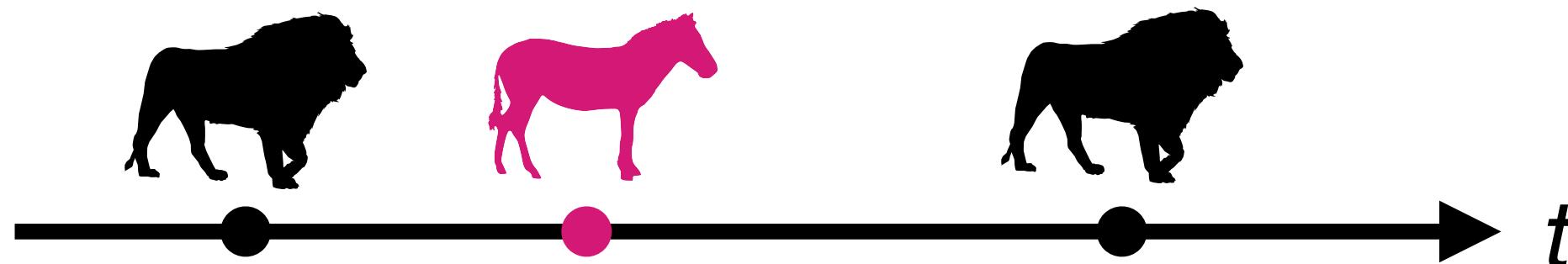
Existing methods



Time intervals Harmsen et
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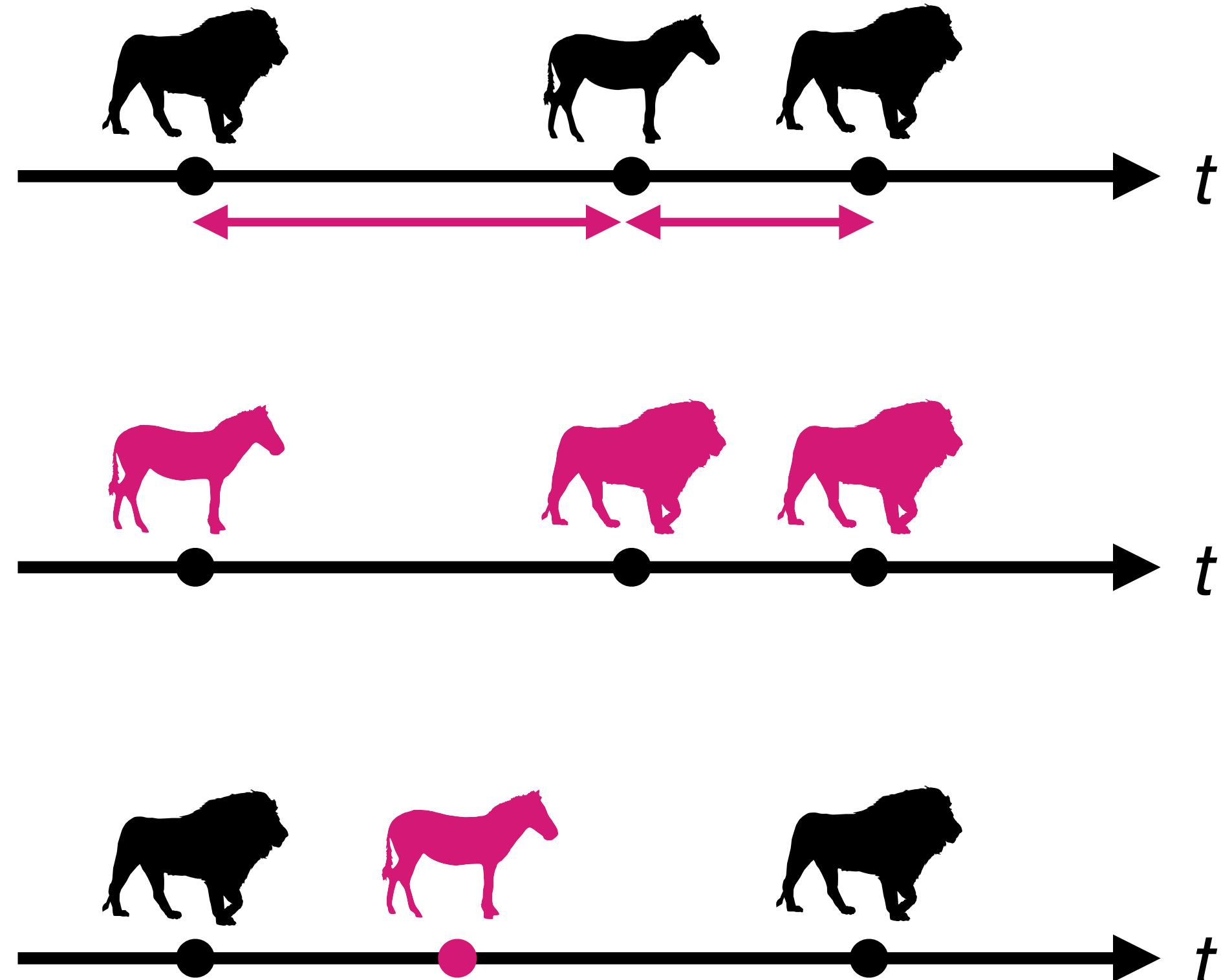
Permutations Murphy et
al. 2021



Random records Cusack
et al. 2017, Karanth et al. 2017

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Time intervals *Harmsen et
al. 2009, Parsons et al. 2016*

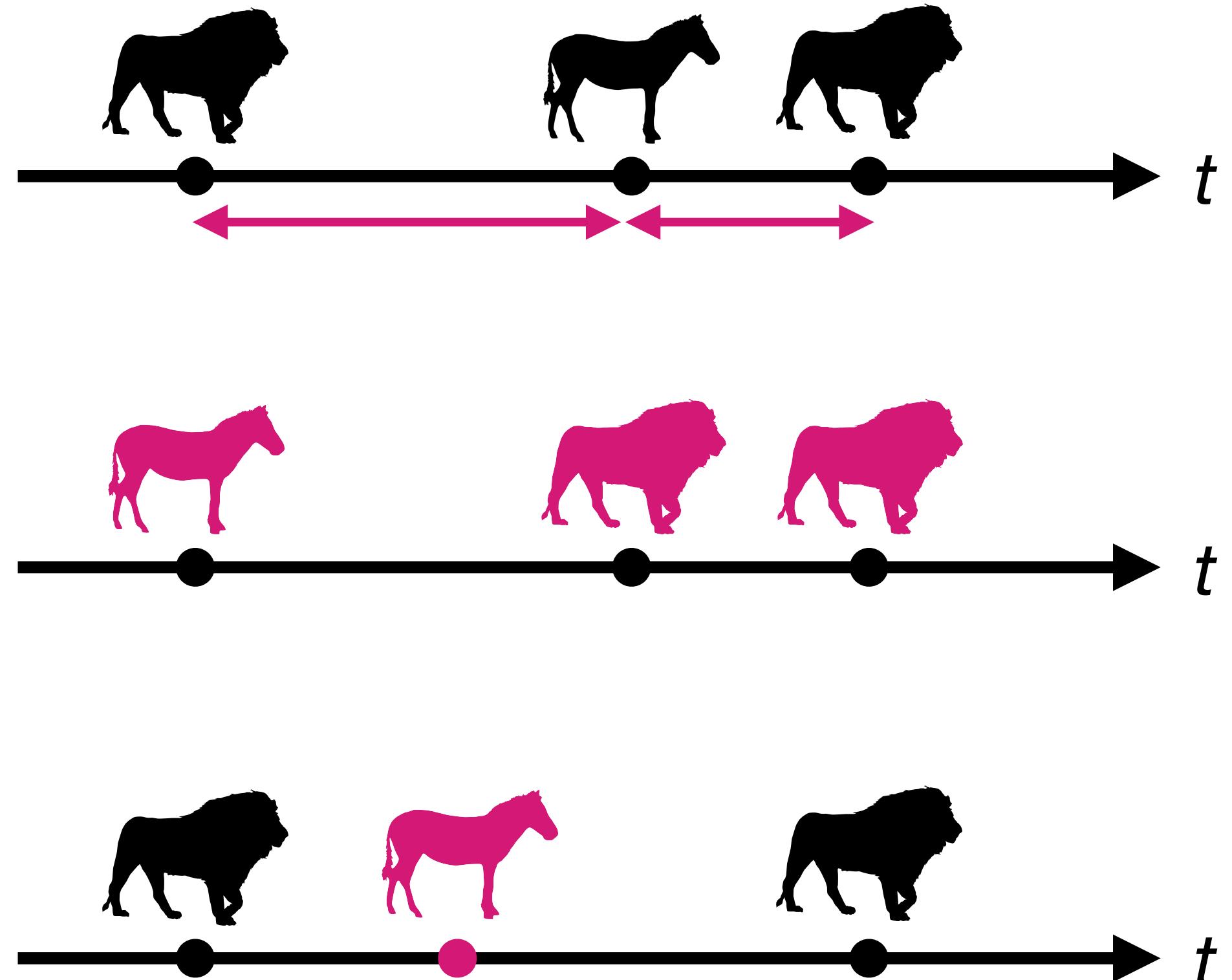
Permutations *Murphy et
al. 2021*

Random records *Cusack
et al. 2017, Karanth et al. 2017*

- limited to 2 species
- no directionality
- difficult to interpret summary statistics

Introduction

Existing methods



Time intervals Harmsen et
al. 2009, Parsons et al. 2016

Permutations Murphy et
al. 2021

Random records Cusack
et al. 2017, Karanth et al. 2017

- limited to 2 species
- no directionality
- difficult to interpret summary statistics

→ **point processes**
Schliep et al. 2018, Kellner et al.
2022, Ferry et al. 2024

Material and methods

Material and methods

Camera trap dataset



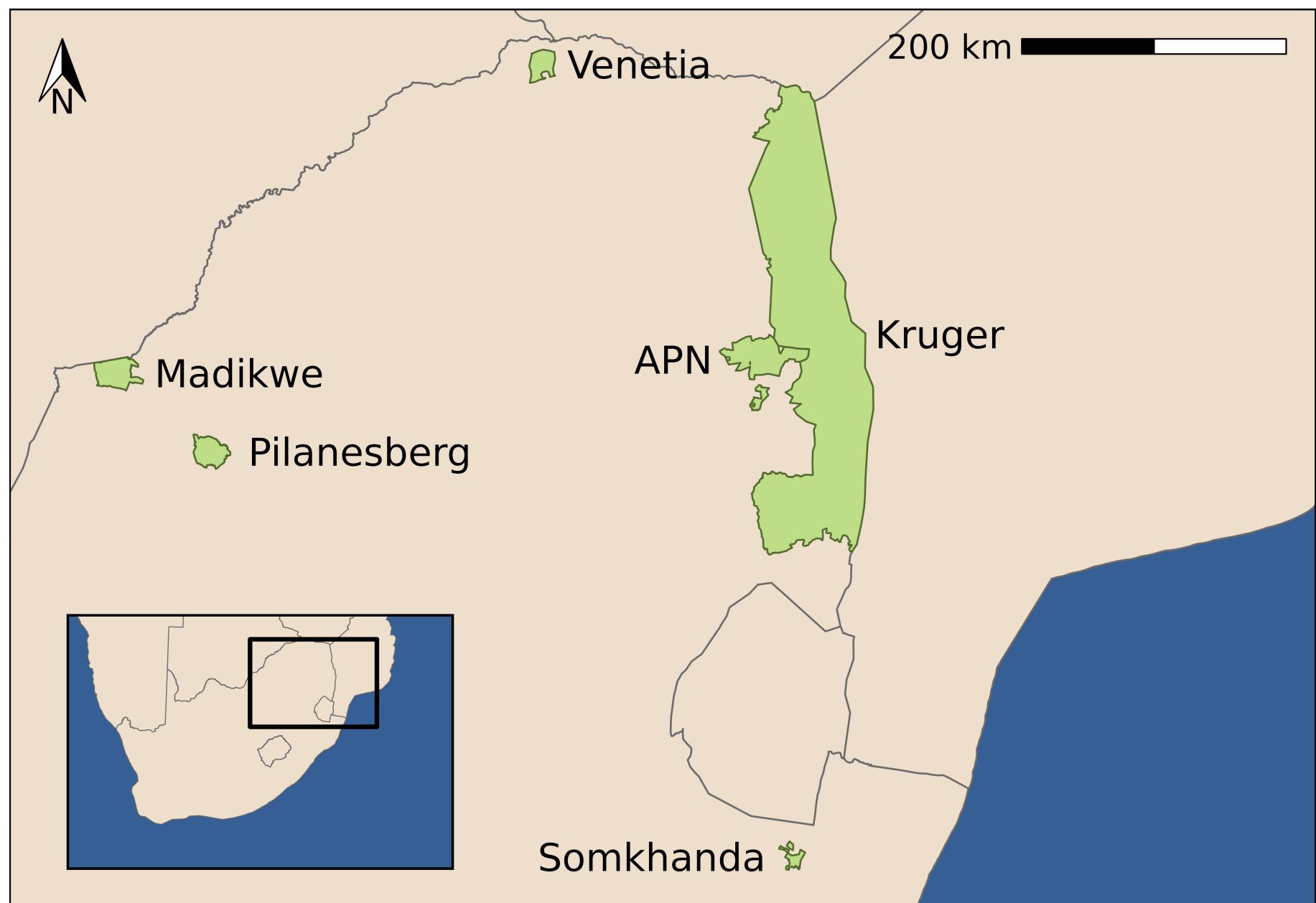
Snapshot Safari monitoring
program (*Pardo et al. 2021*)

Material and methods

Camera trap dataset



Snapshot Safari monitoring
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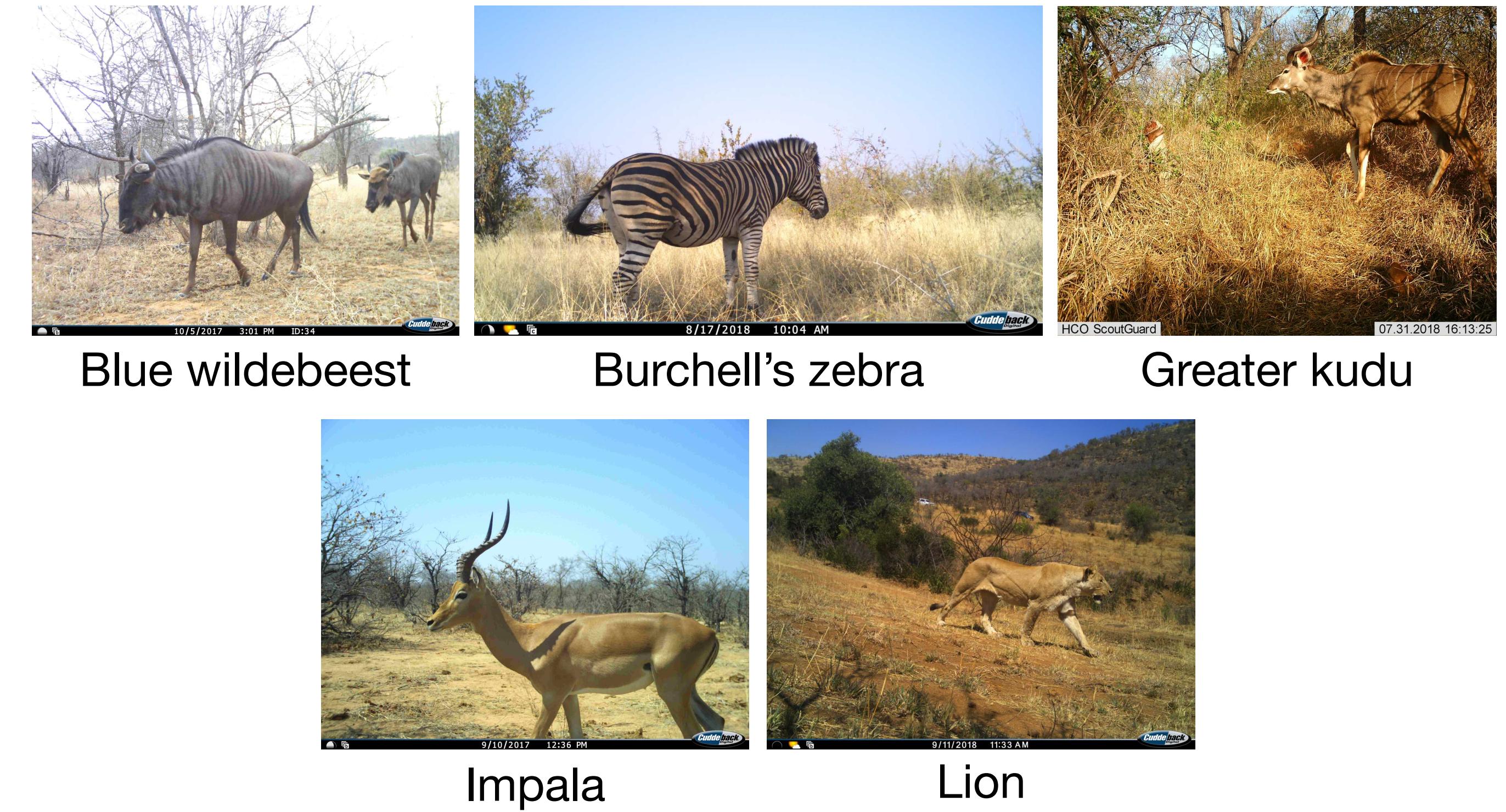
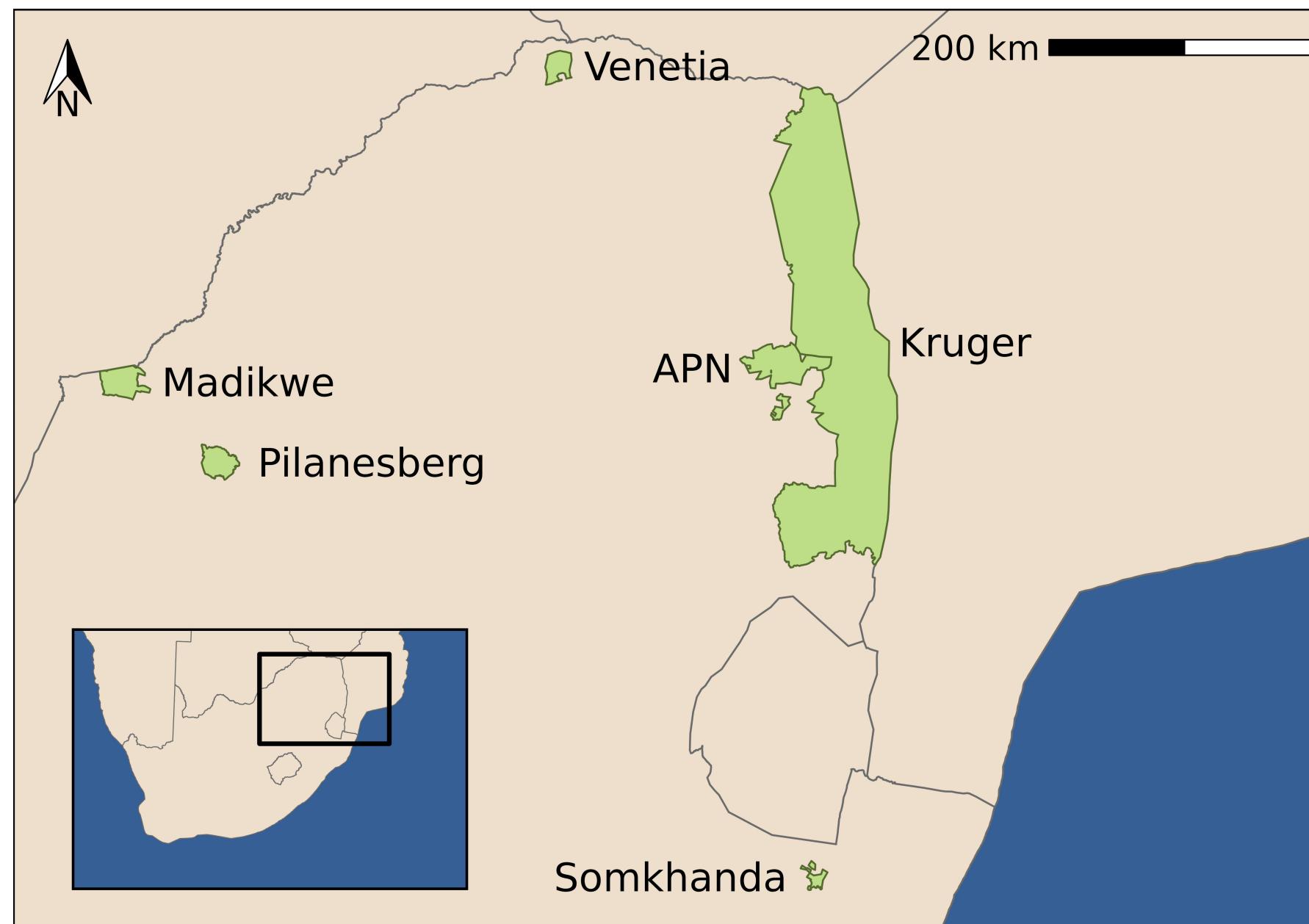


Material and methods

Camera trap dataset



Snapshot Safari monitoring
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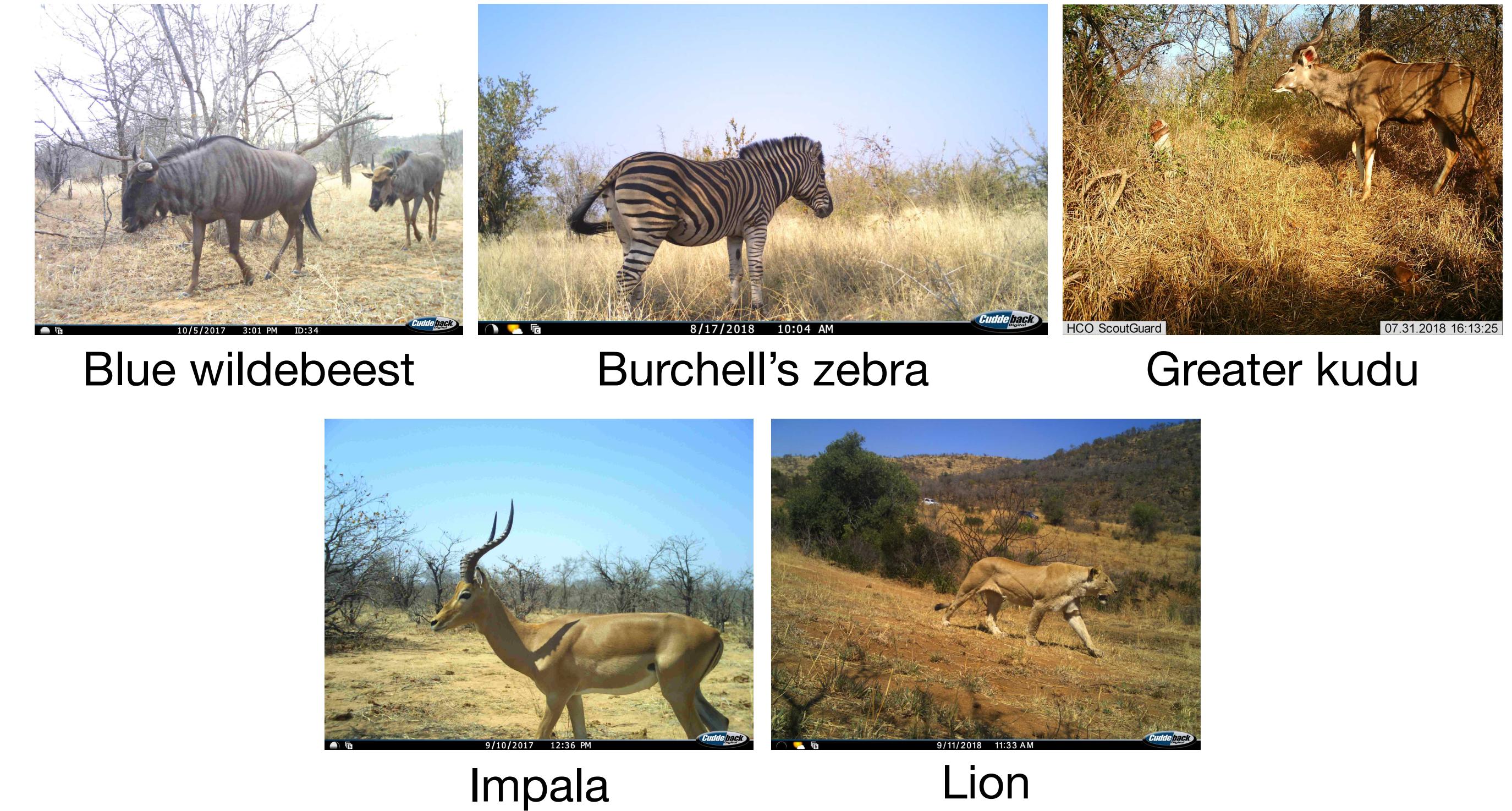
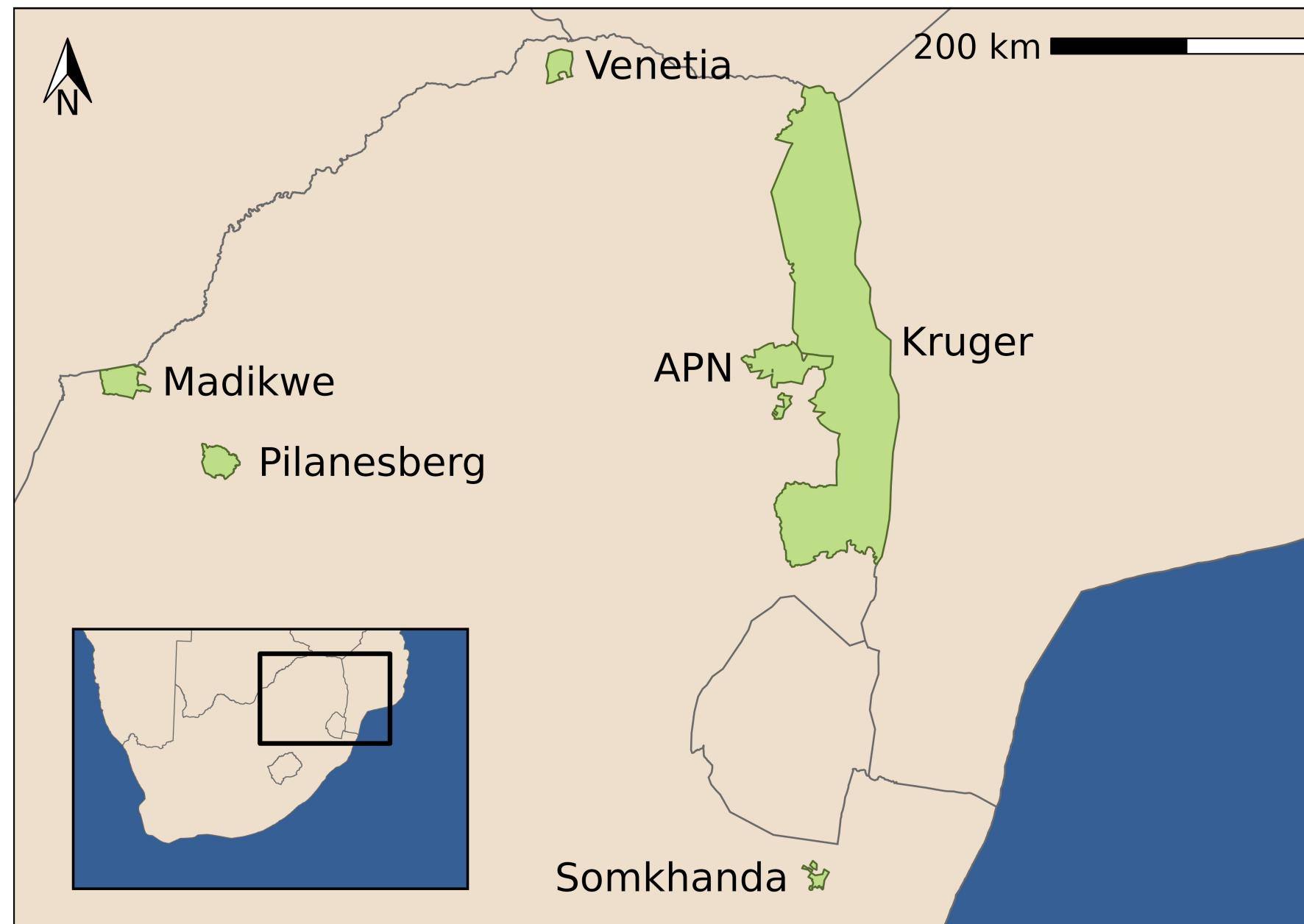
Material and methods

Camera trap dataset



Snapshot Safari monitoring
program (*Pardo et al. 2021*)

→ > 2 years data and 70,000 pictures



Material and methods

Hawkes process



Material and methods

Hawkes process

- Point process to model self-exciting events (*Hawkes 1971*)



Material and methods

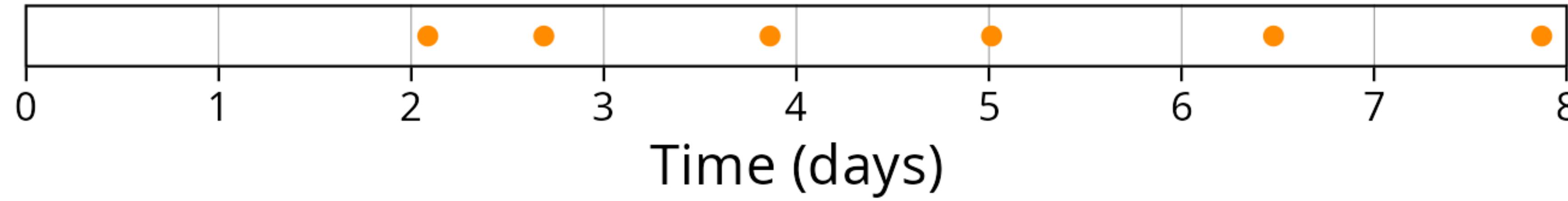
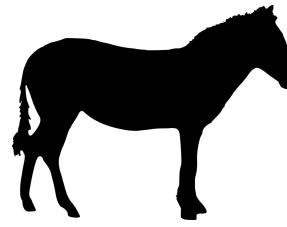
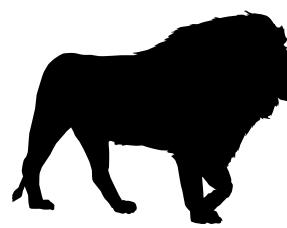
Hawkes process

- Point process to model self-exciting events (*Hawkes 1971*)
- Earthquakes aftershocks, stock market prices, action potentials in neurons...



Material and methods

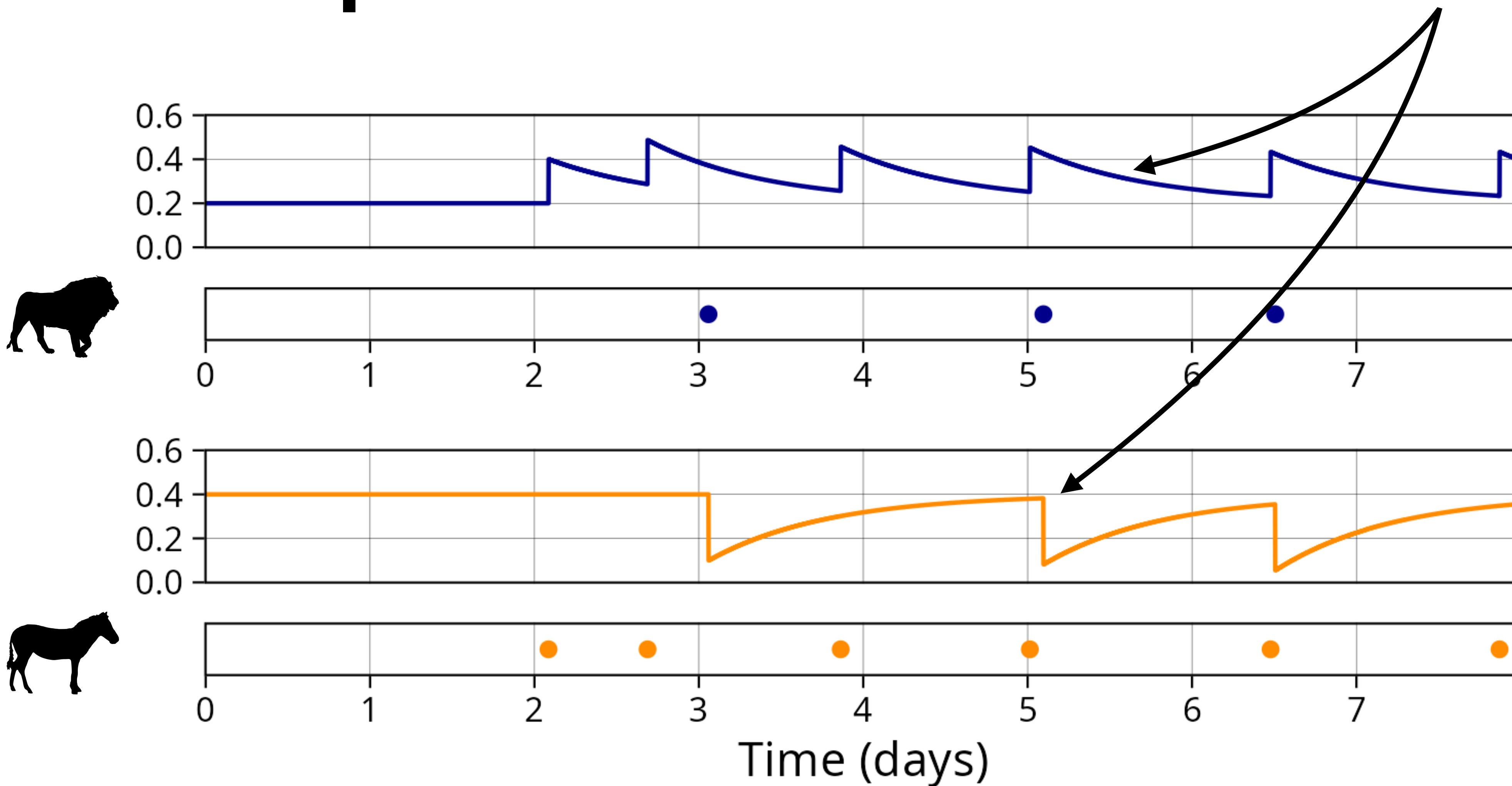
Hawkes process



Material and methods

Hawkes process

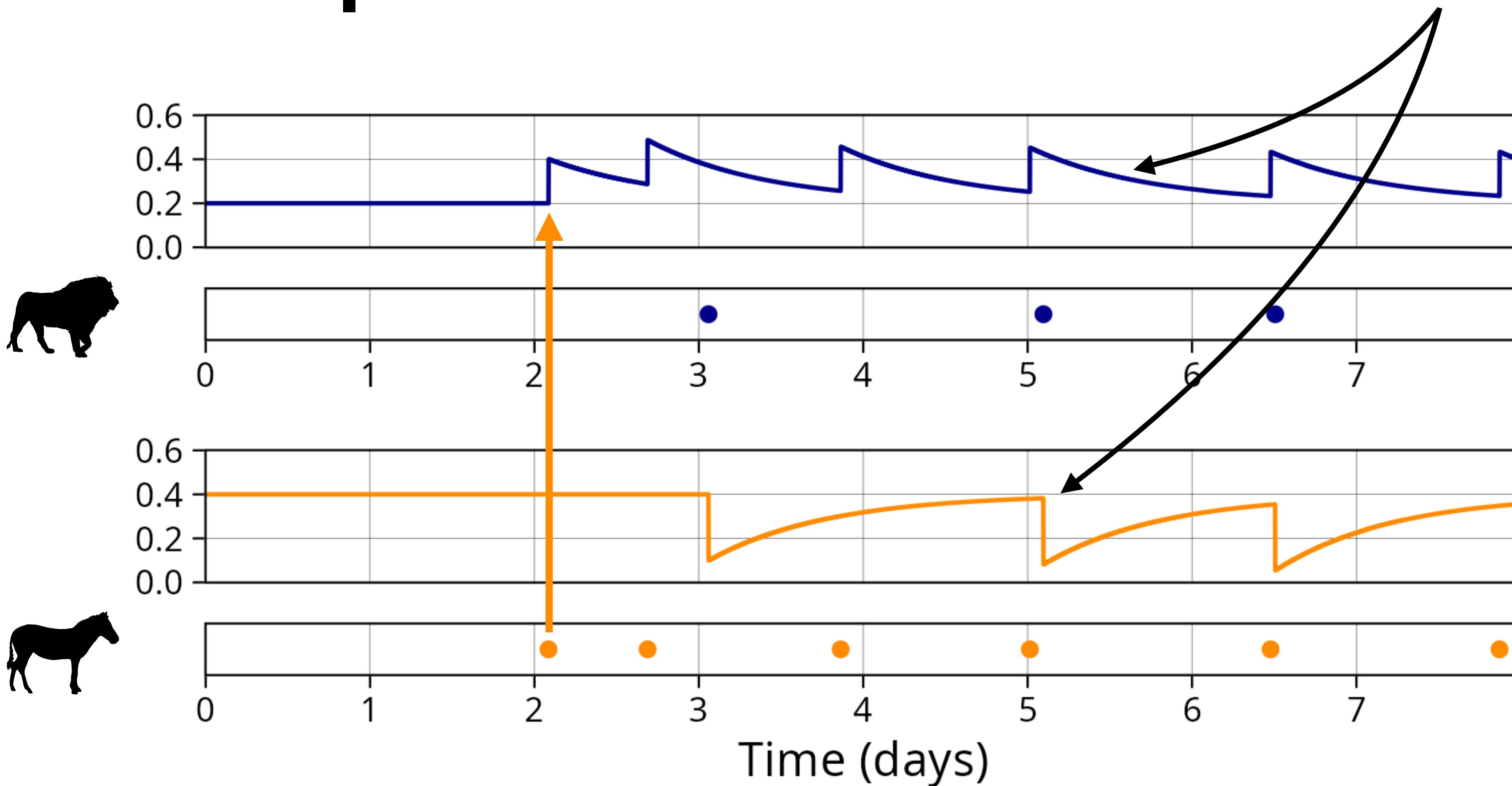
Intensity \approx instantaneous occurrence rate



Material and methods

Hawkes process

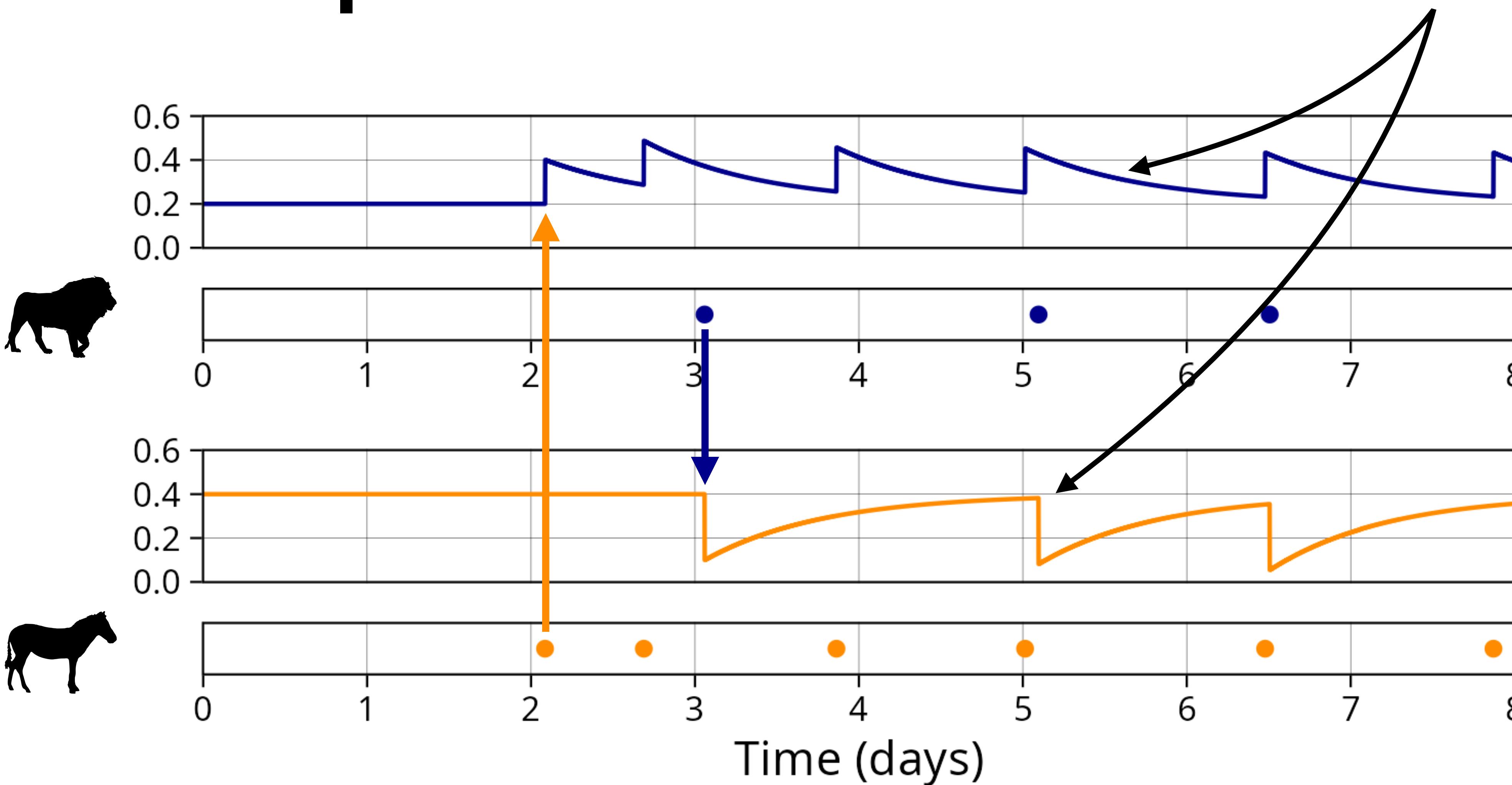
Intensity \approx instantaneous occurrence rate



Material and methods

Hawkes process

Intensity \approx instantaneous occurrence rate



Material and methods

Hawkes process

Model from *Lambert et al. (2018)*, implemented in the R package UnitEvents *Albert et al. 2021*

Material and methods

Hawkes process

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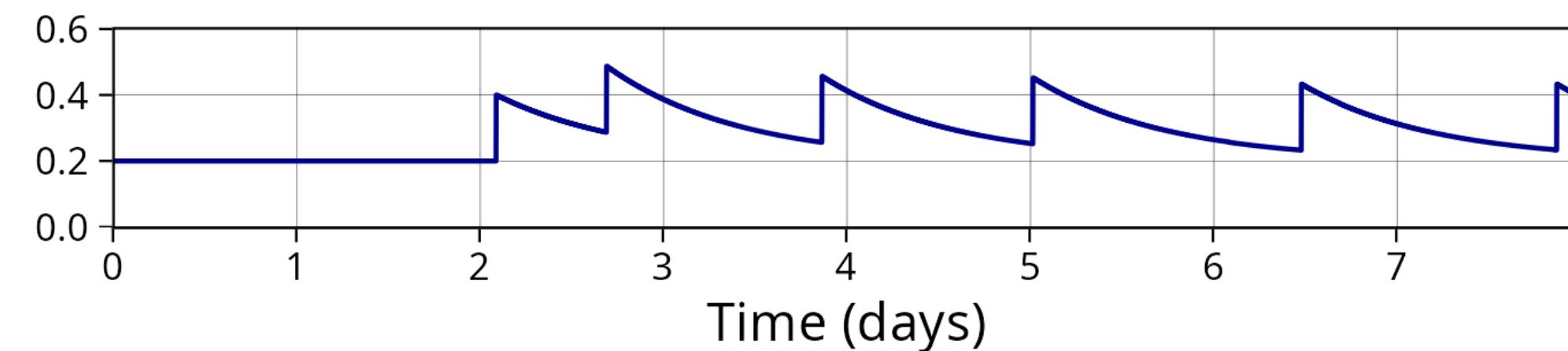
$$\lambda_i^l(t) = \left(\nu_i + \sum_{j=1}^S \sum_{m \mid T_m^{lj} < t} f_{j \rightarrow i}(t - T_m^{lj}) \right) +$$

Material and methods

Hawkes process

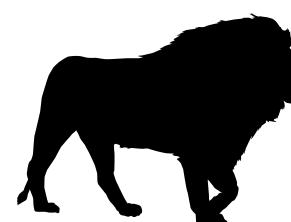
Model from *Lambert et al. (2018)*, implemented in the R package UnitEvents

Albert et al. 2021



$$\lambda_i^l(t) = \left(\nu_i + \sum_{j=1}^S \sum_{m \mid T_m^{lj} < t} f_{j \rightarrow i}(t - T_m^{lj}) \right) +$$

Intensity for species i
at camera trap l

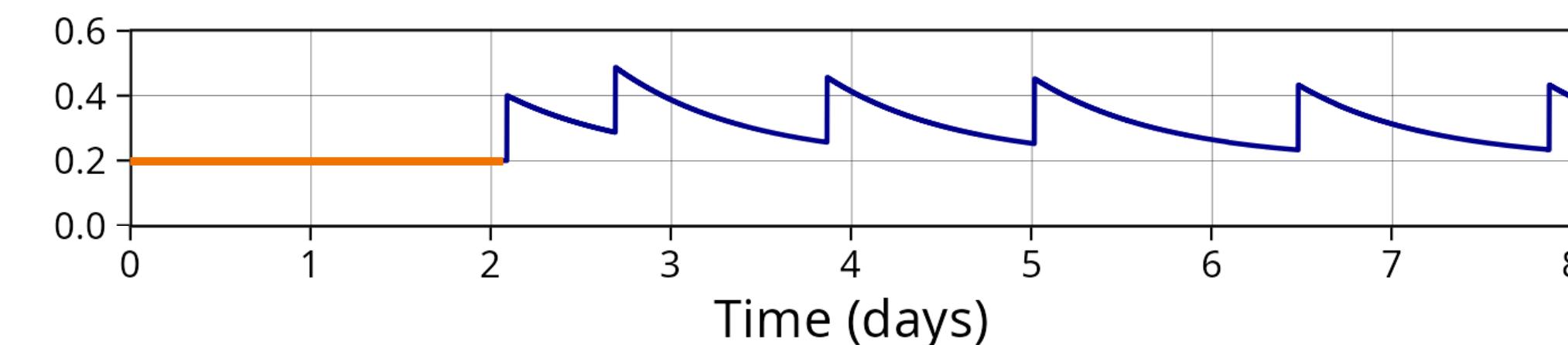


Material and methods

Hawkes process

Model from *Lambert et al. (2018)*, implemented in the R package UnitEvents

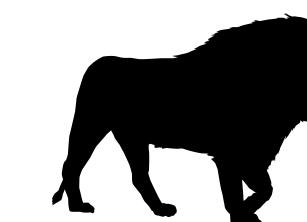
Albert et al. 2021



$$\lambda_i^l(t) = \left(\nu_i + \sum_{j=1}^S \sum_{m \mid T_m^{lj} < t} f_{j \rightarrow i}(t - T_m^{lj}) \right) +$$

Intensity for species i
at camera trap l

Background rate
for species i

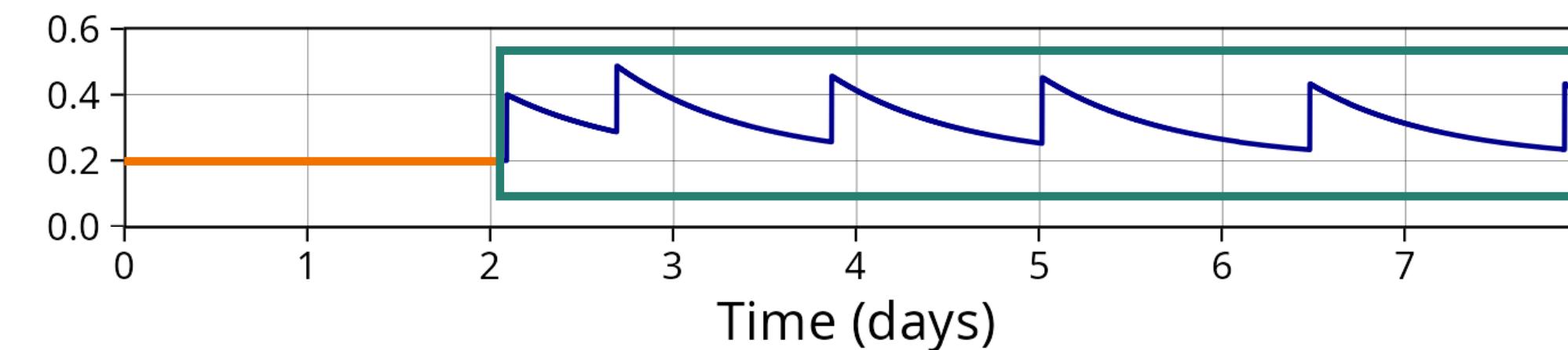


Material and methods

Hawkes process

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Albert et al. 2021

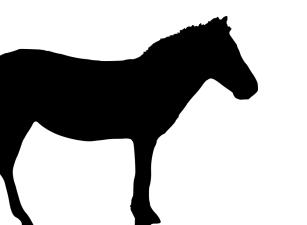
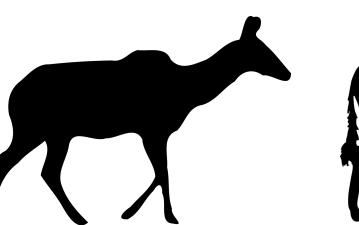
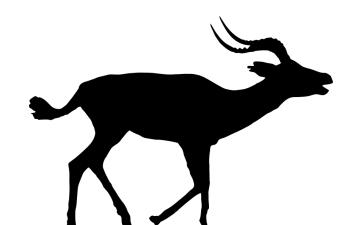
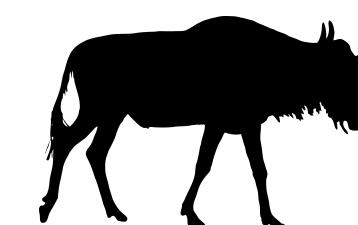
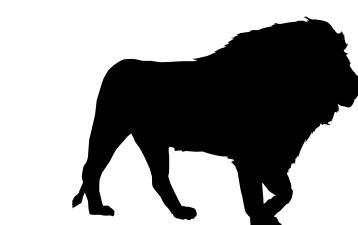
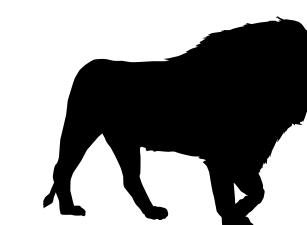


$$\lambda_i^l(t) = \left(\nu_i + \sum_{j=1}^S \sum_{m \mid T_m^{lj} < t} f_{j \rightarrow i}(t - T_m^{lj}) \right) +$$

Intensity for species i at camera trap l

Background rate for species i

Influence of other occurrences

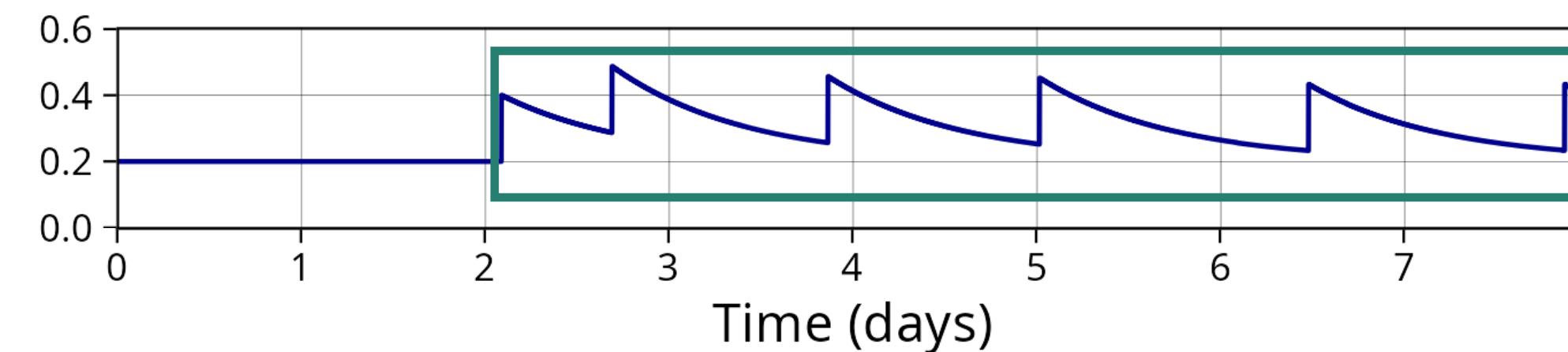


Material and methods

Hawkes process

Model from *Lambert et al. (2018)*, implemented in the R package UnitEvents

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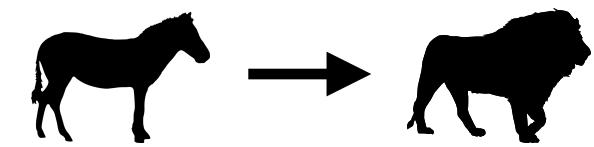


$$\lambda_i^l(t) = \left(\nu_i + \sum_{j=1}^S \sum_{m \mid T_m^{lj} < t} \frac{f_{j \rightarrow i}(t - T_m^{lj})}{\text{Interaction function from species } j \text{ to species } i} \right) + \text{Background rate for species } i$$

Intensity for species i at camera trap l

Background rate for species i

Interaction function from species j to species i



$j \neq i$

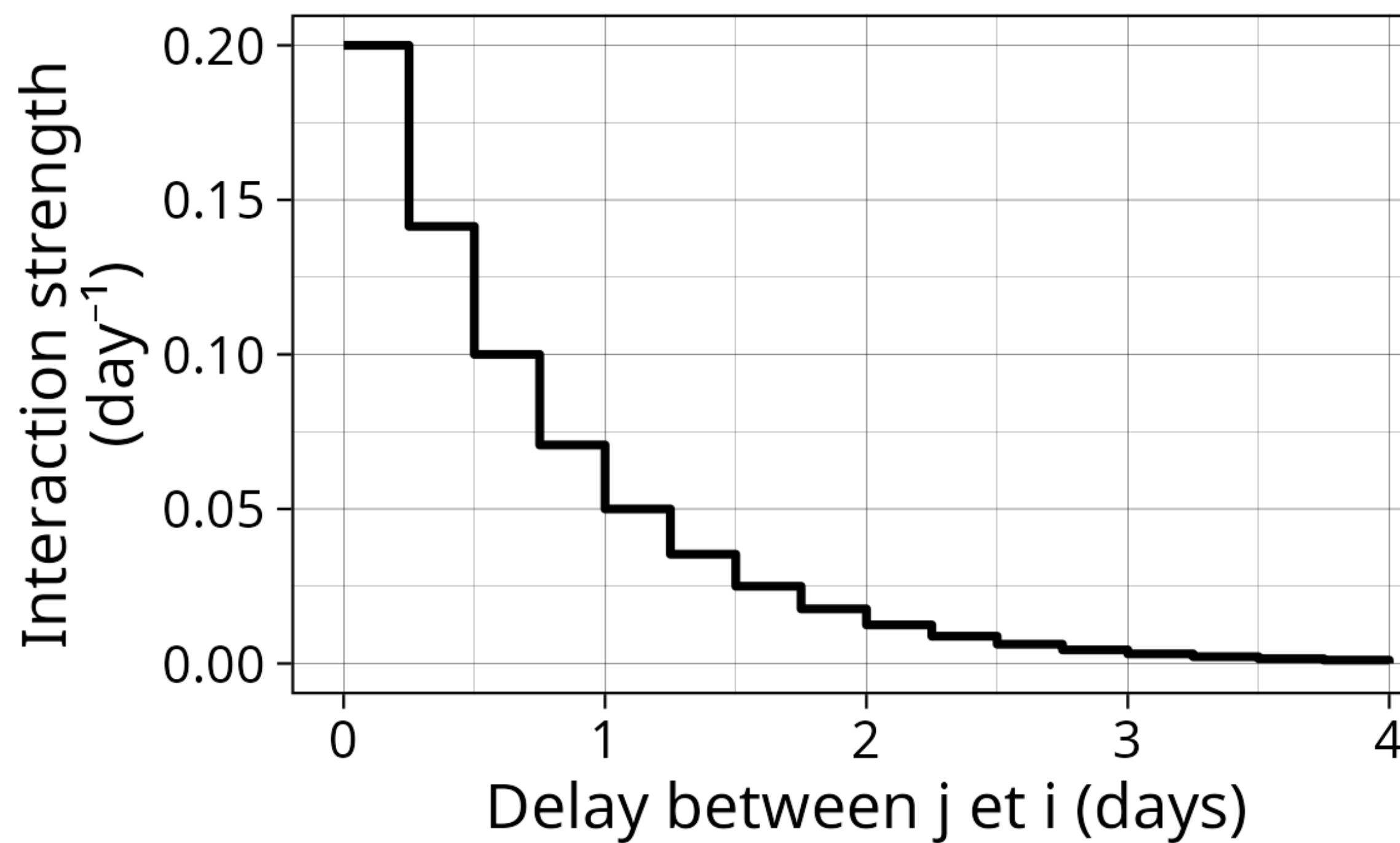


$j = i$

Material and methods

The interaction function

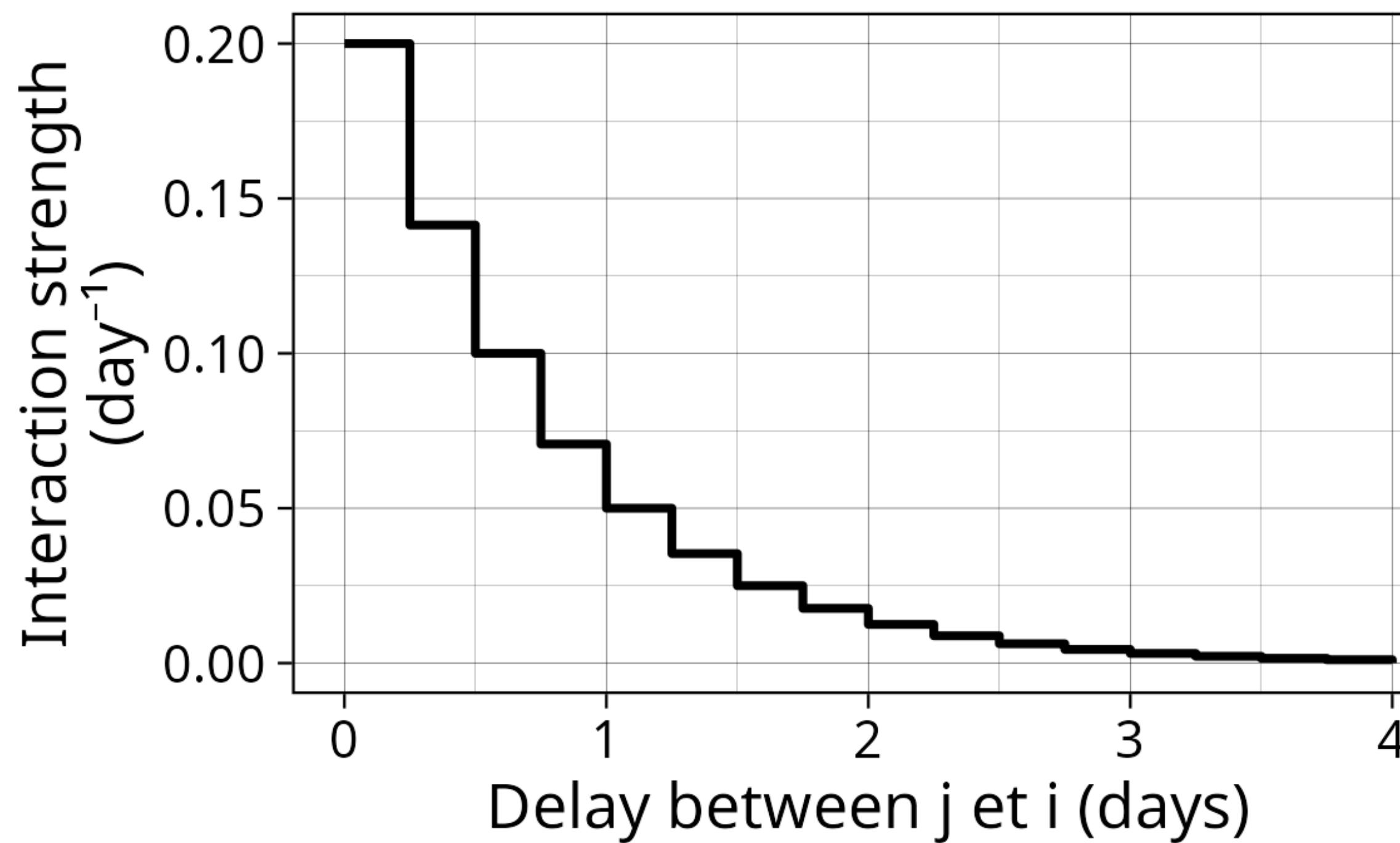
$$f_{j \rightarrow i}(t - T_m^{lj})$$



Material and methods

The interaction function

$$f_{j \rightarrow i}(t - T_m^{lj})$$



$> 0 \rightarrow$ attraction of i by j

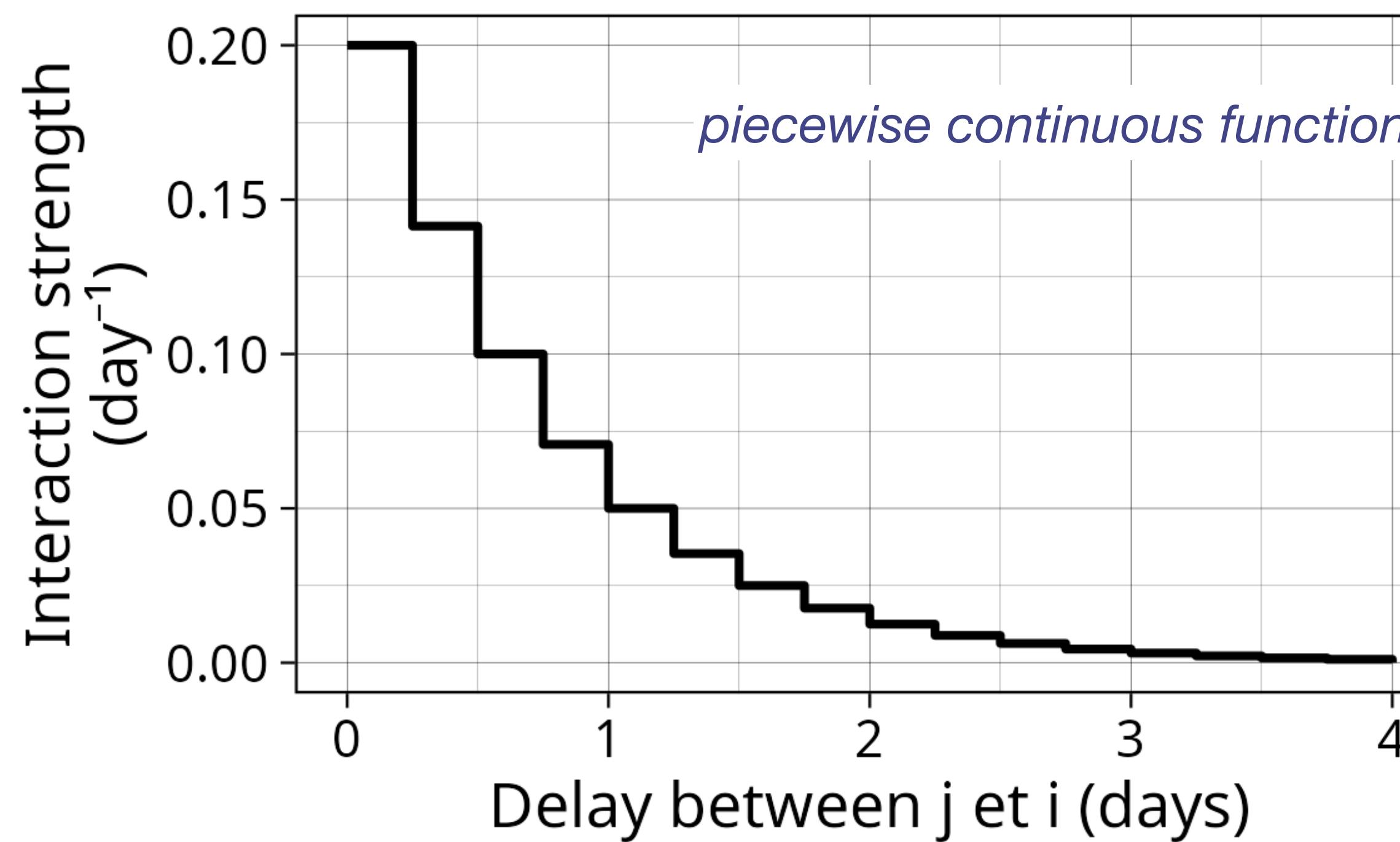
$= 0 \rightarrow$ no effect

$< 0 \rightarrow$ repulsion of i by j

Material and methods

The interaction function

$$f_{j \rightarrow i}(t - T_m^{lj})$$



$> 0 \rightarrow$ attraction of i by j

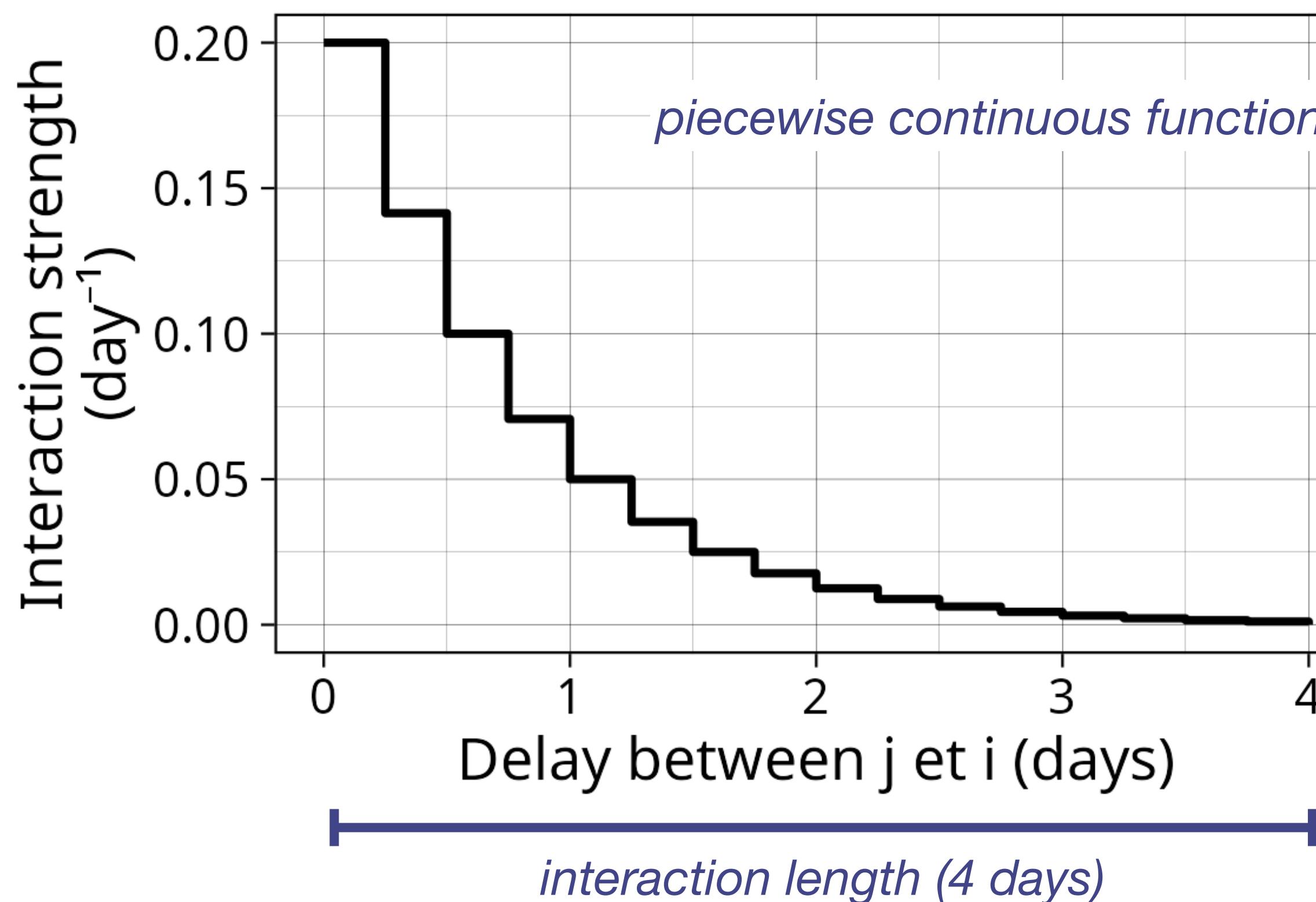
$= 0 \rightarrow$ no effect

$< 0 \rightarrow$ repulsion of i by j

Material and methods

The interaction function

$$f_{j \rightarrow i}(t - T_m^{lj})$$



$> 0 \rightarrow$ attraction of i by j

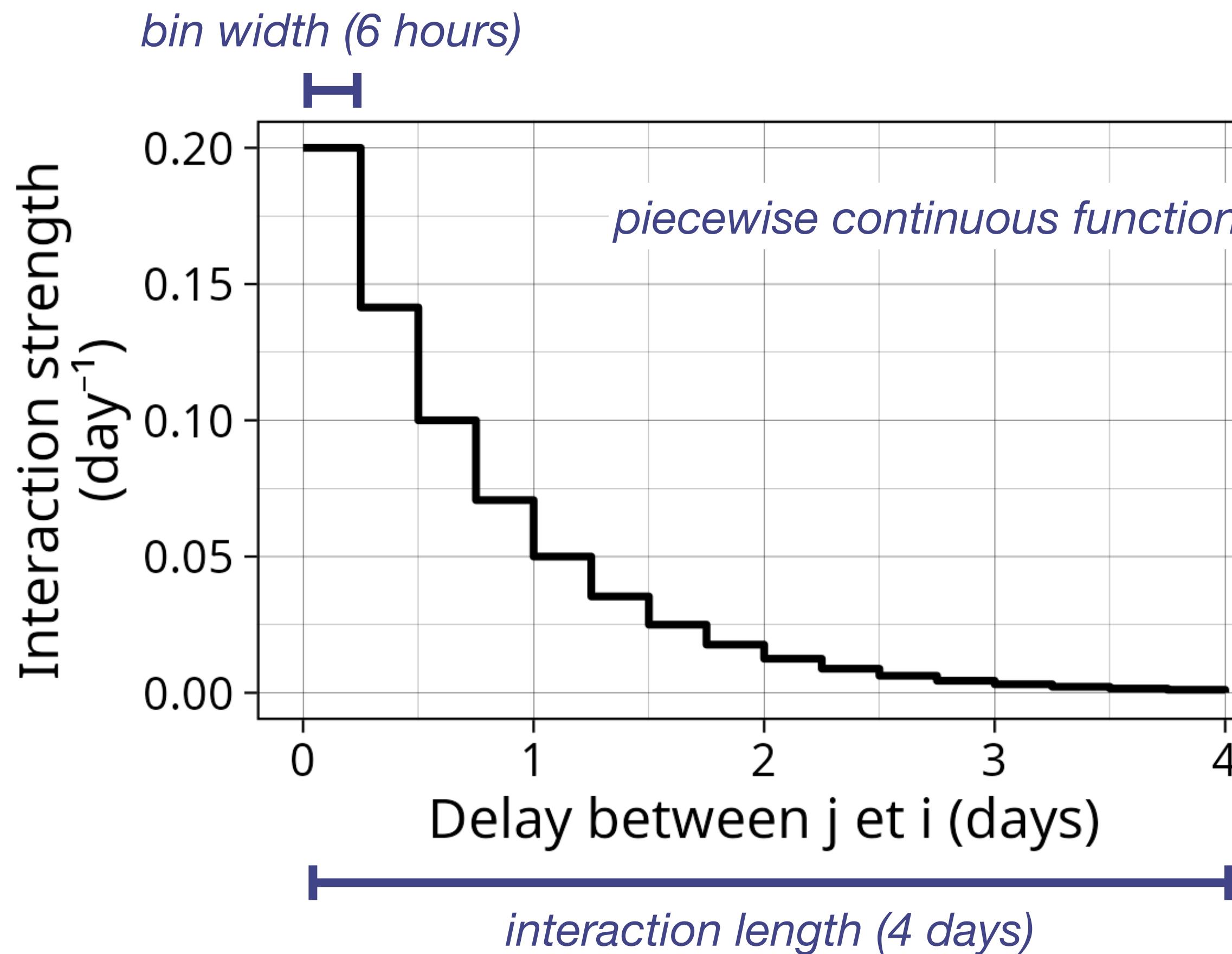
$= 0 \rightarrow$ no effect

$< 0 \rightarrow$ repulsion of i by j

Material and methods

The interaction function

$$f_{j \rightarrow i}(t - T_m^{lj})$$



$> 0 \rightarrow$ attraction of i by j

$= 0 \rightarrow$ no effect

$< 0 \rightarrow$ repulsion of i by j

Material and methods

Parameter fitting

$$\lambda_i^l(t) = \left(\nu_i + \sum_{j=1}^S \sum_{m \mid T_m^{lj} < t} f_{j \rightarrow i}(t - T_m^{lj}) \right)_+$$

Material and methods

Parameter fitting

$$\lambda_i^l(t) = \left(\nu_i + \sum_{j=1}^S \sum_{m \mid T_m^{lj} < t} f_{j \rightarrow i}(t - T_m^{lj}) \right)_+$$

LASSO-penalized least squares

Material and methods

Parameter fitting

$$\lambda_i^l(t) = \left(\nu_i + \sum_{j=1}^S \sum_{m \mid T_m^{lj} < t} f_{j \rightarrow i}(t - T_m^{lj}) \right)_+$$

LASSO-penalized least squares

- Least squares: parameter fitting
- LASSO penalization: model selection

Material and methods

Parameter fitting

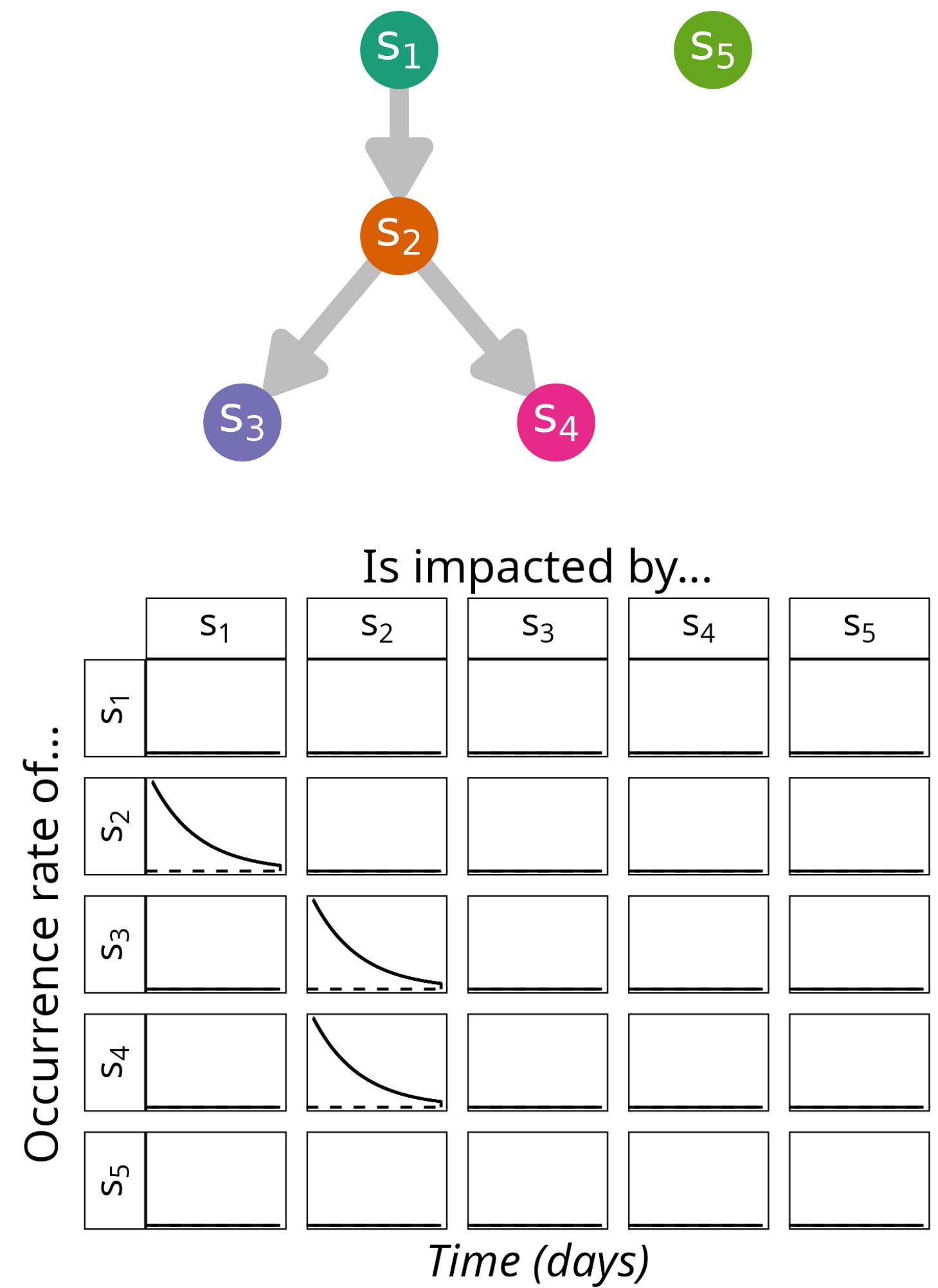
$$\lambda_i^l(t) = \left(\nu_i + \sum_{j=1}^S \sum_{m \mid T_m^{lj} < t} f_{j \rightarrow i}(t - T_m^{lj}) \right)_+$$

LASSO-penalized least squares

- Least squares: parameter fitting
- LASSO penalization: model selection
 - Hyperparameter $\gamma \in [0, 1]$ → strength of penalization
 - Simulation study → γ set to 0.5

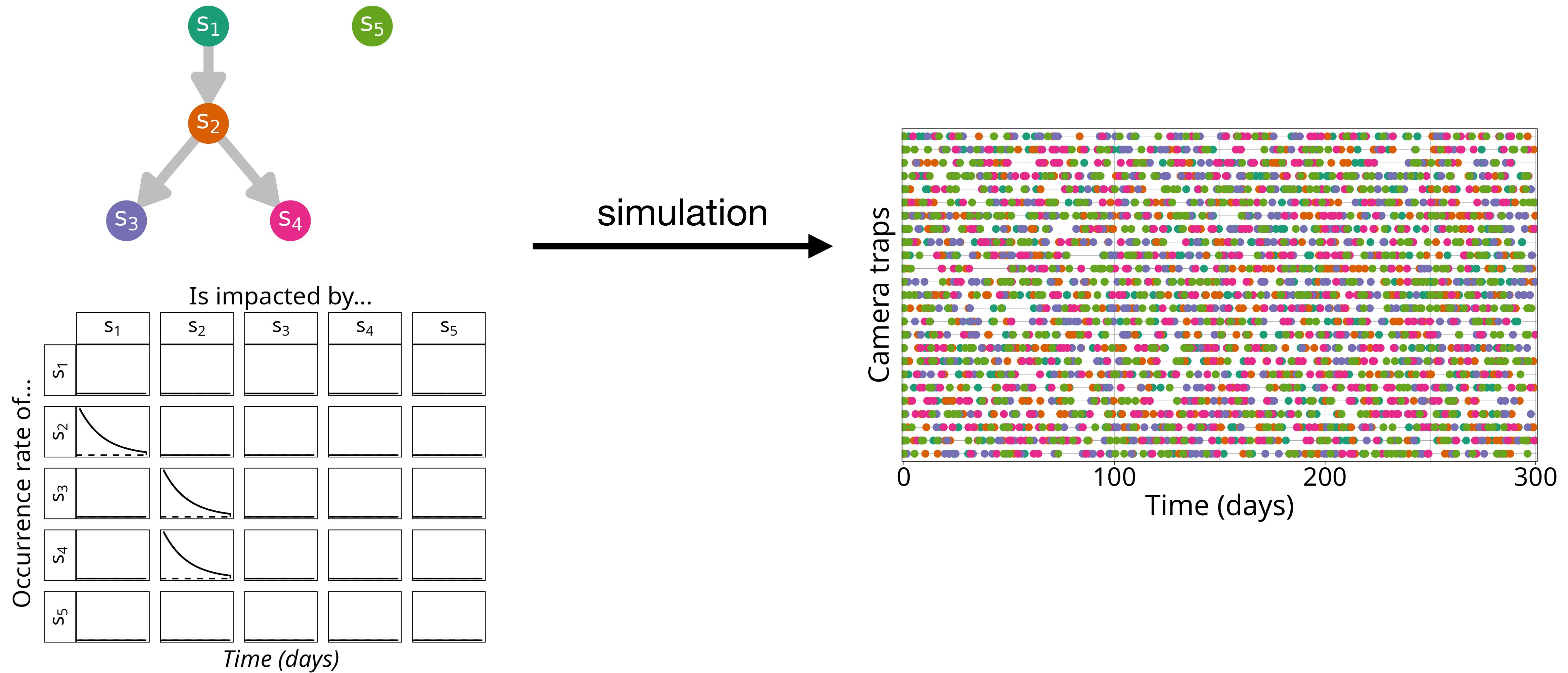
Material and methods

Simulation



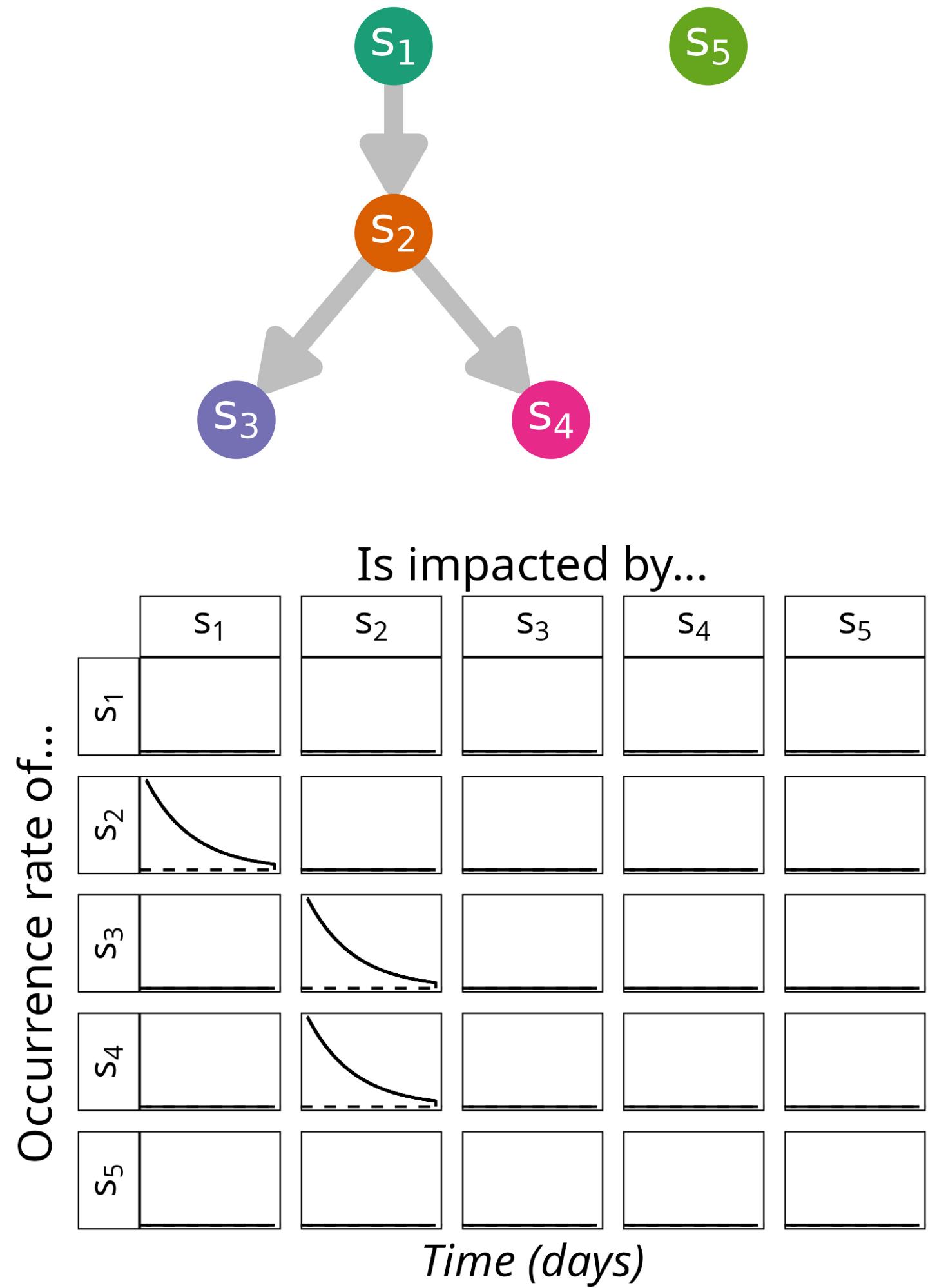
Material and methods

Simulation

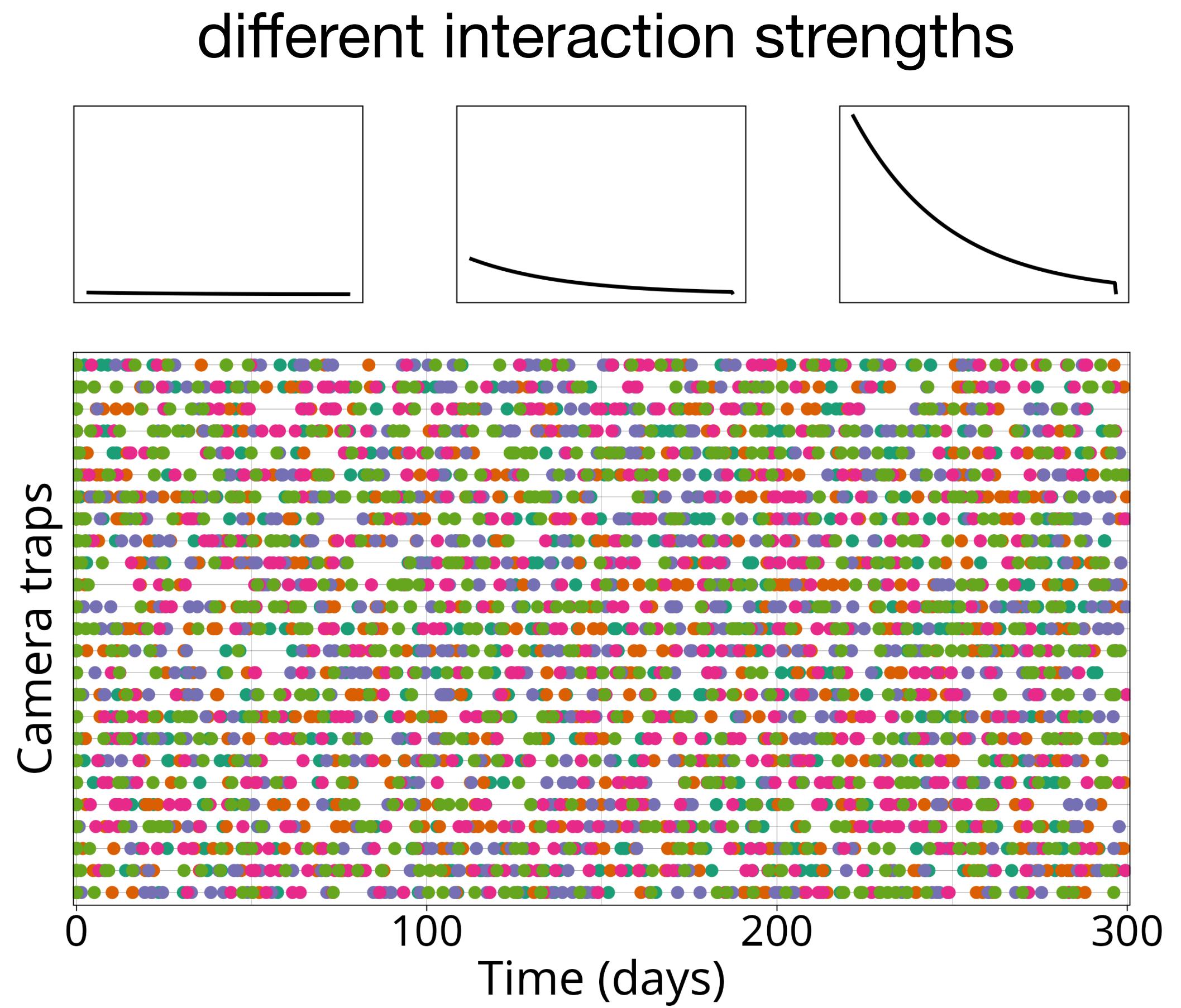


Material and methods

Simulation

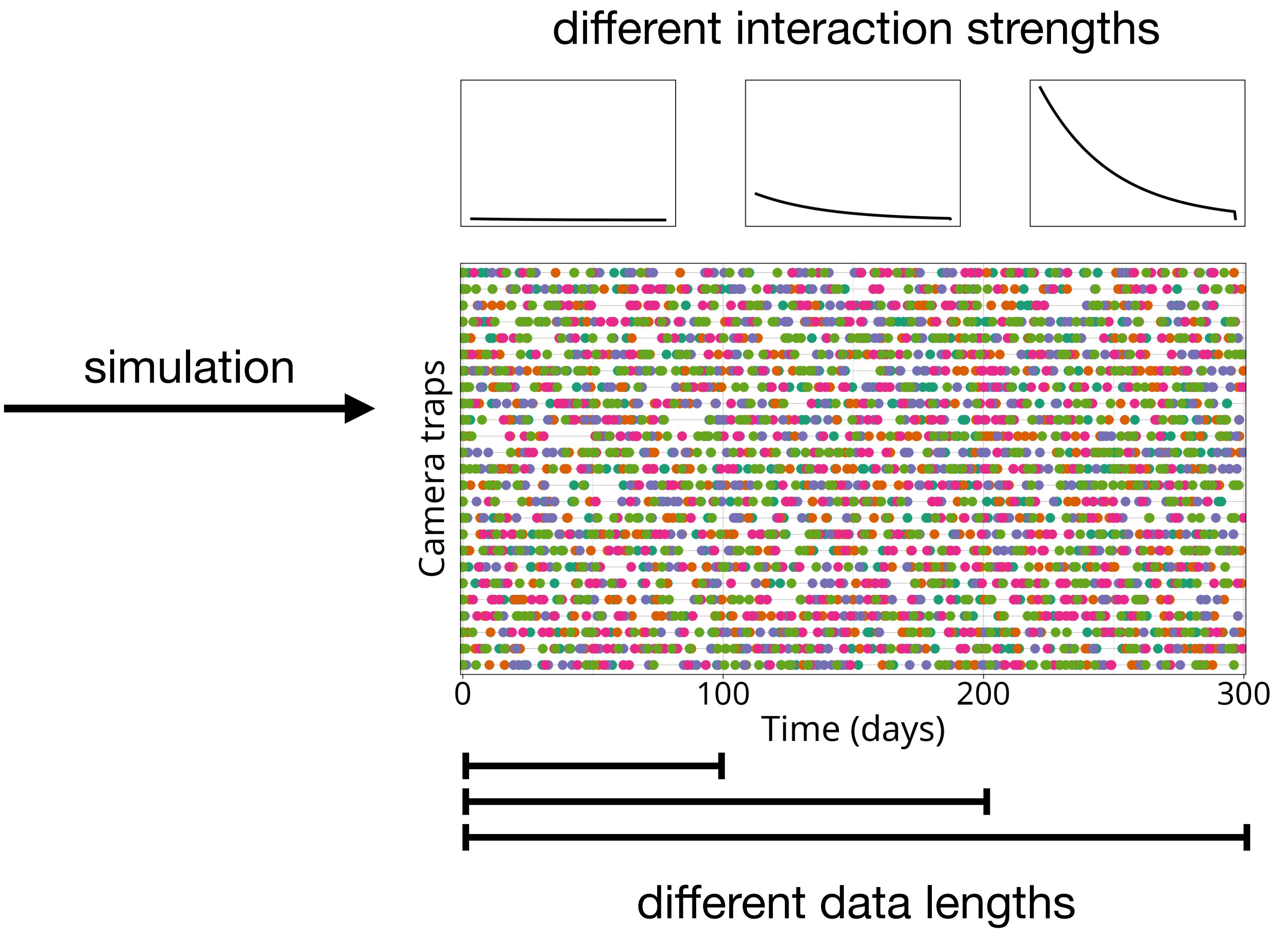
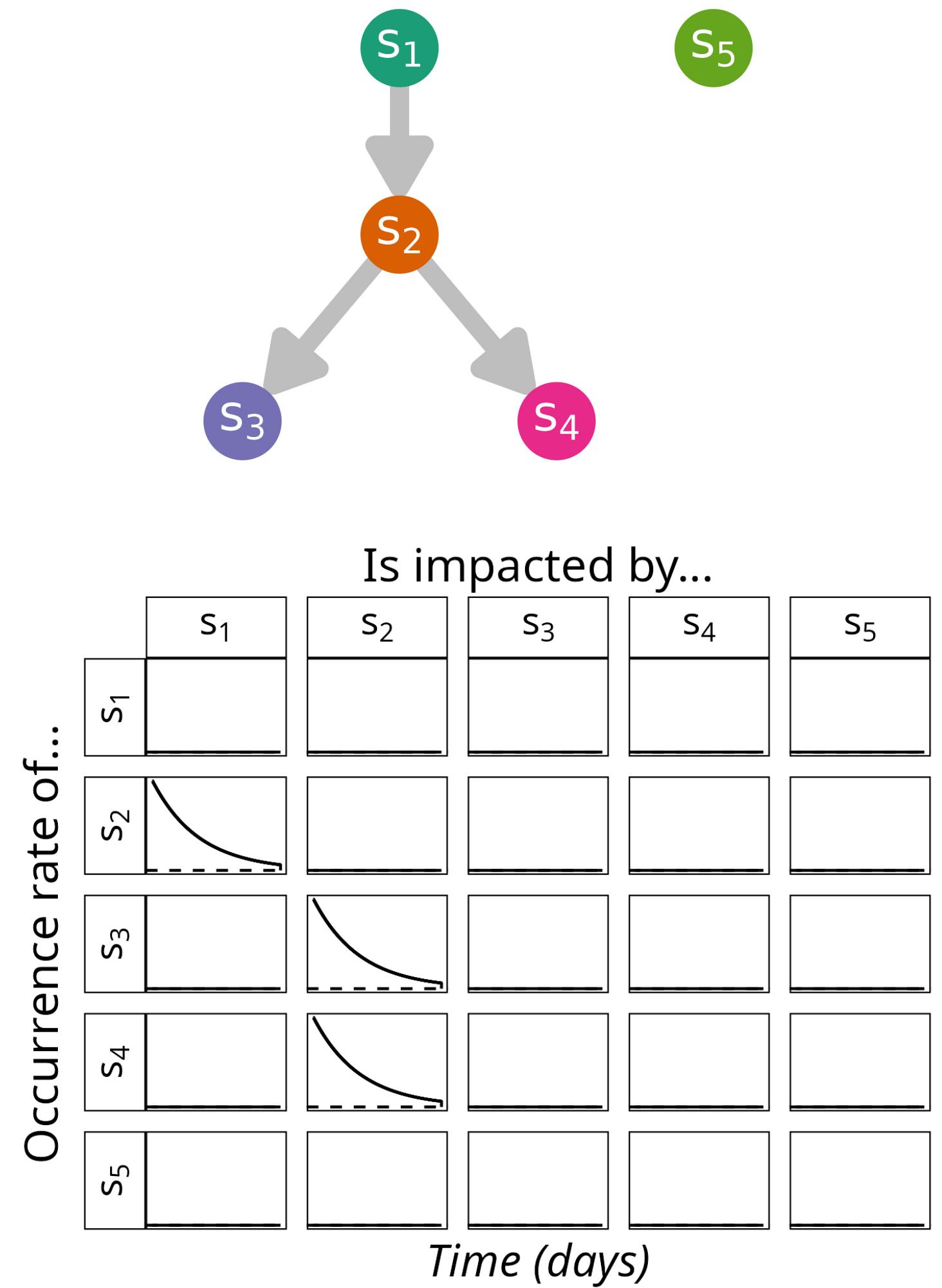


simulation →



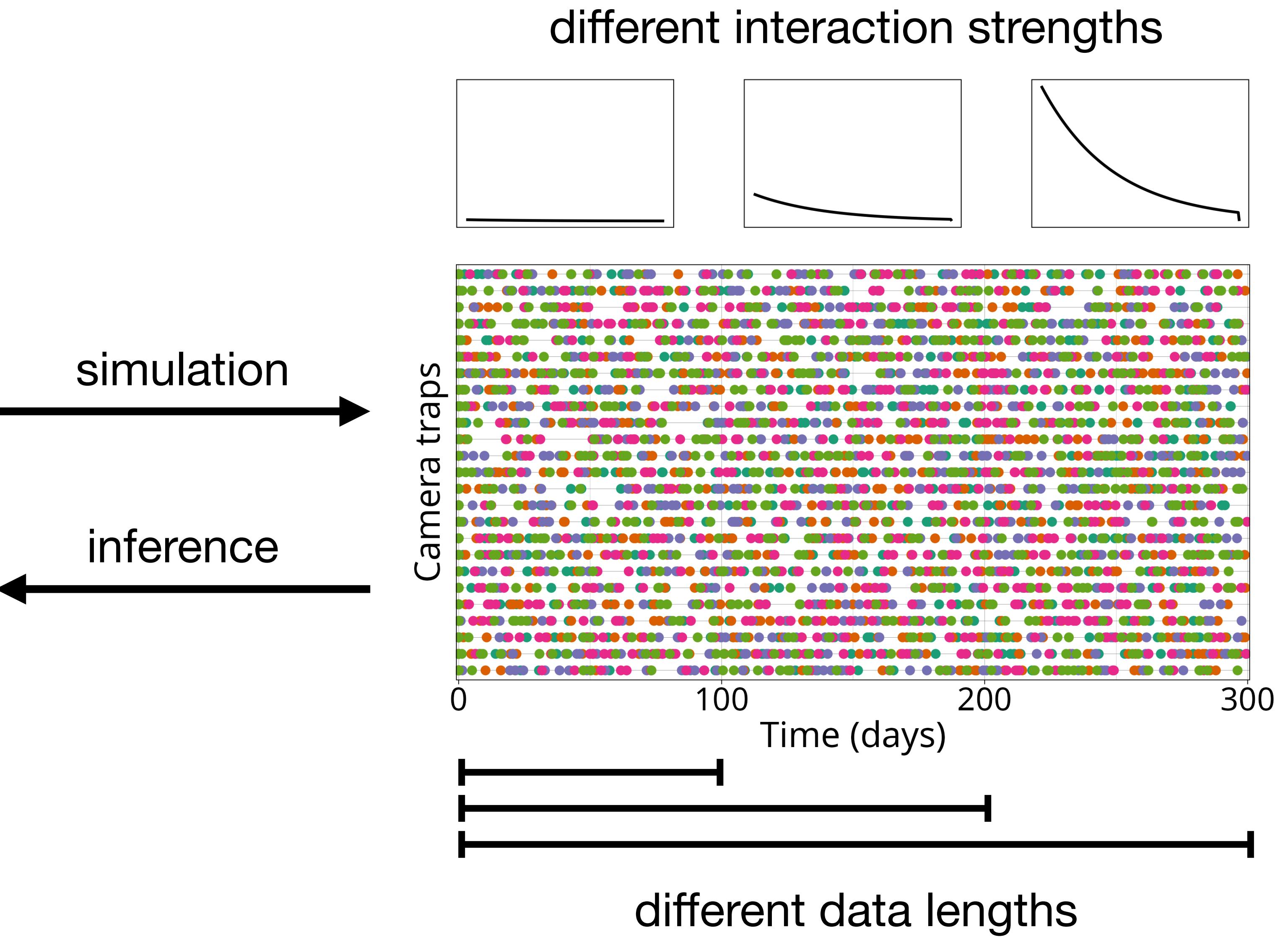
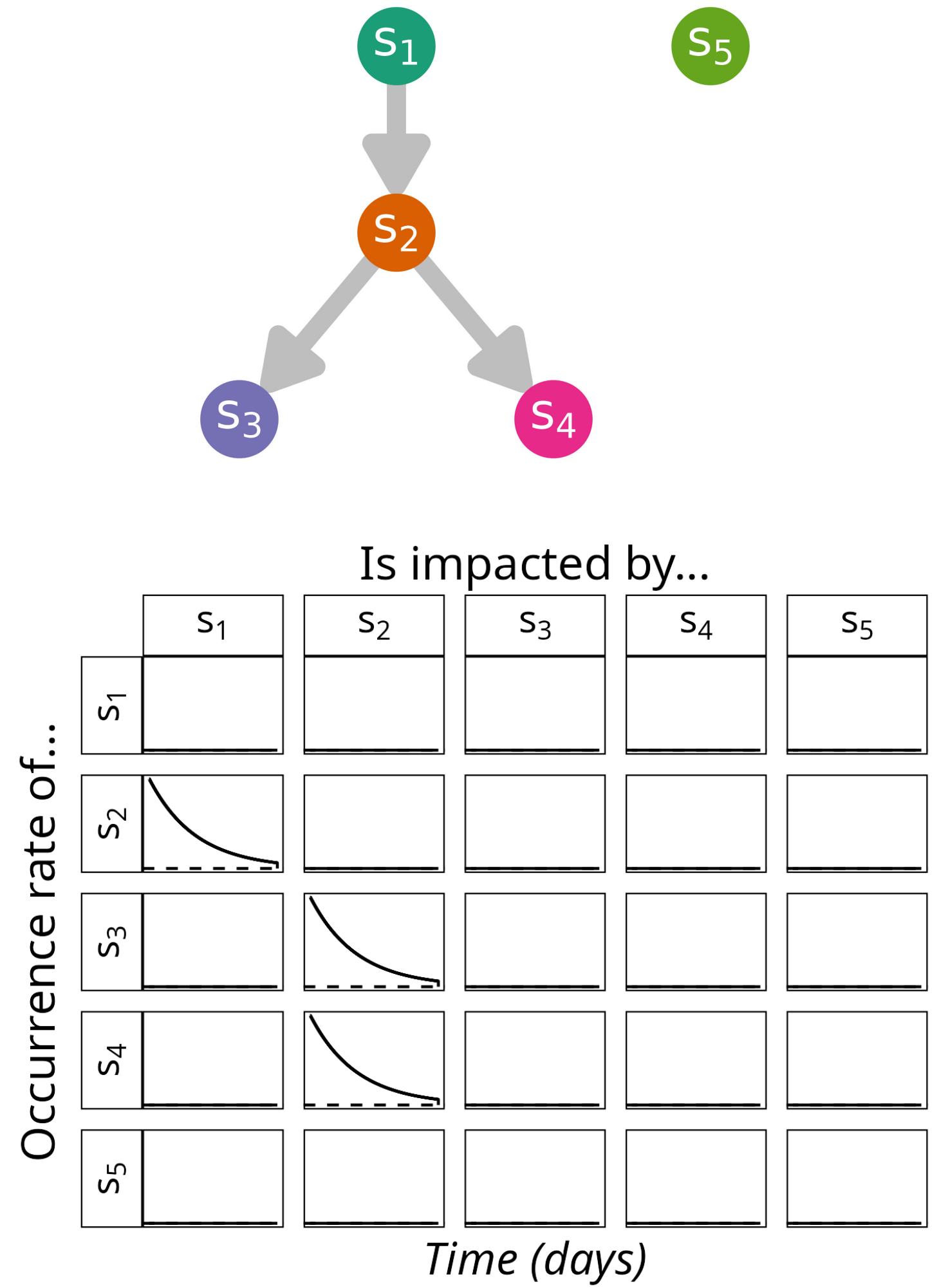
Material and methods

Simulation



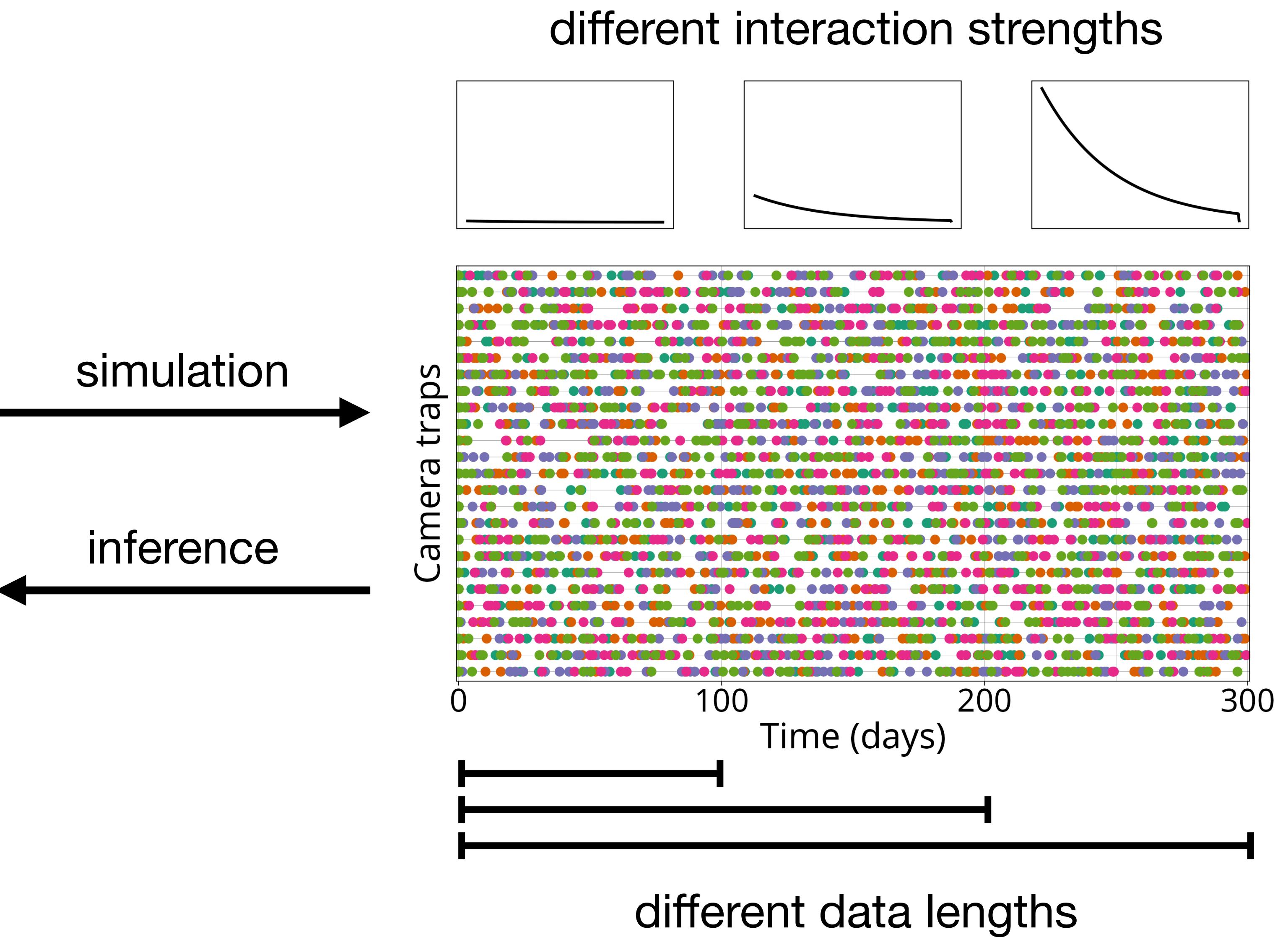
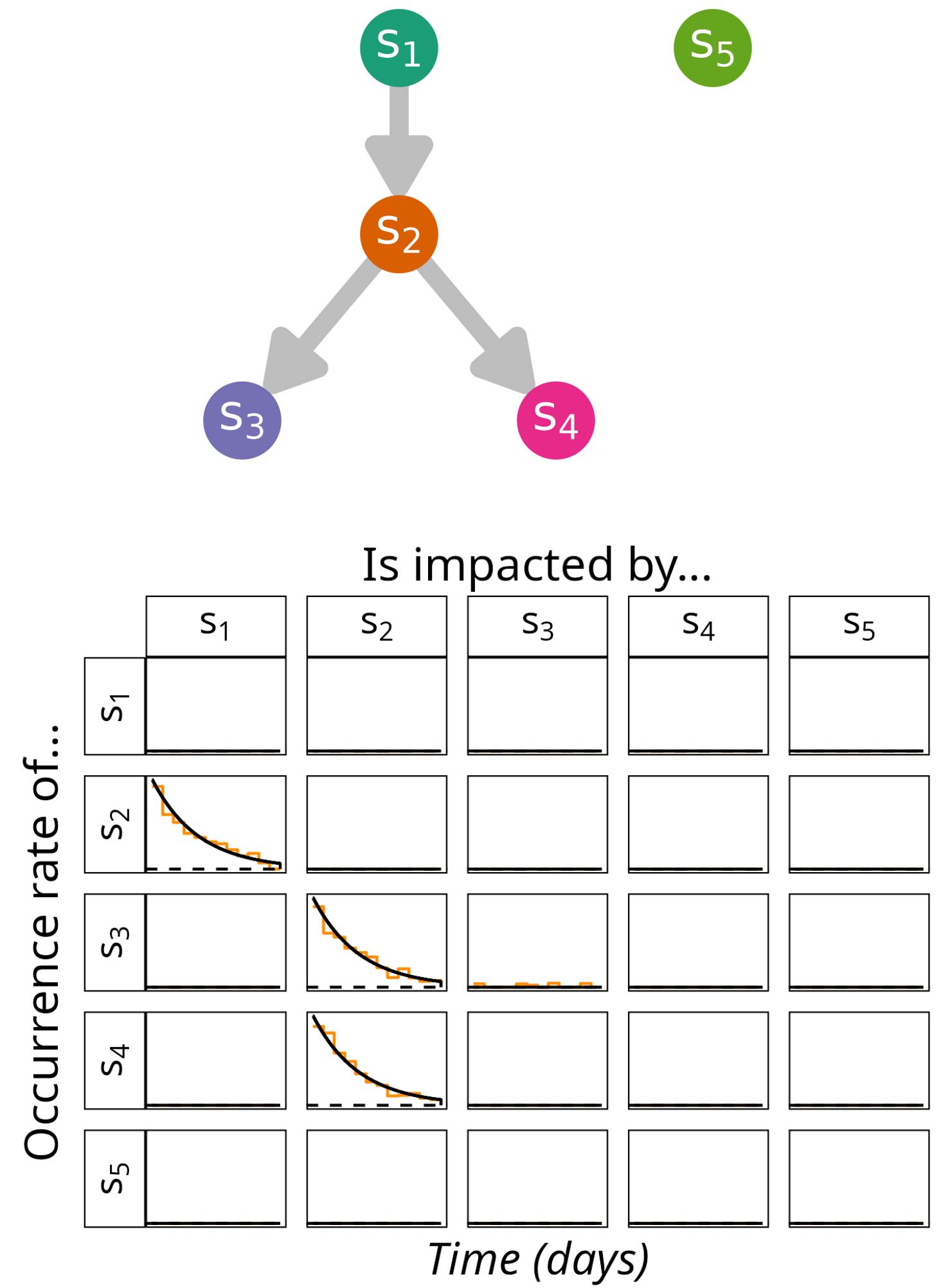
Material and methods

Simulation



Material and methods

Simulation



Results & discussion

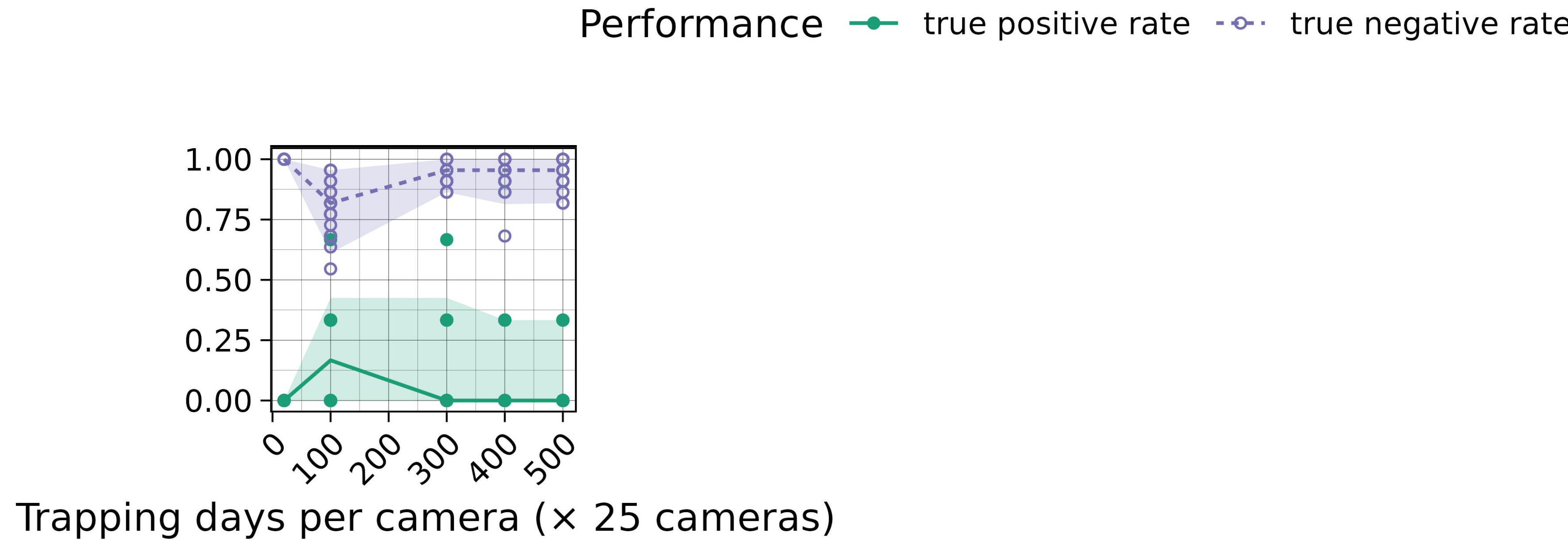
Results & discussion

Evaluate the inference

Performance ● true positive rate ○ true negative rate

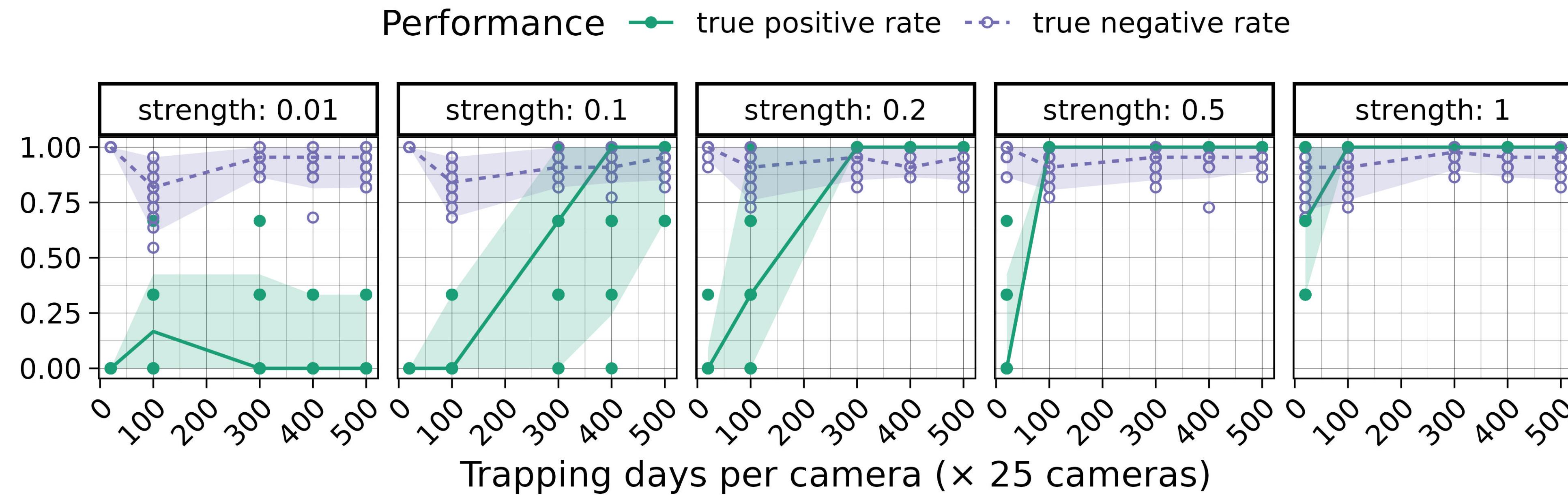
Results & discussion

Evaluate the inference



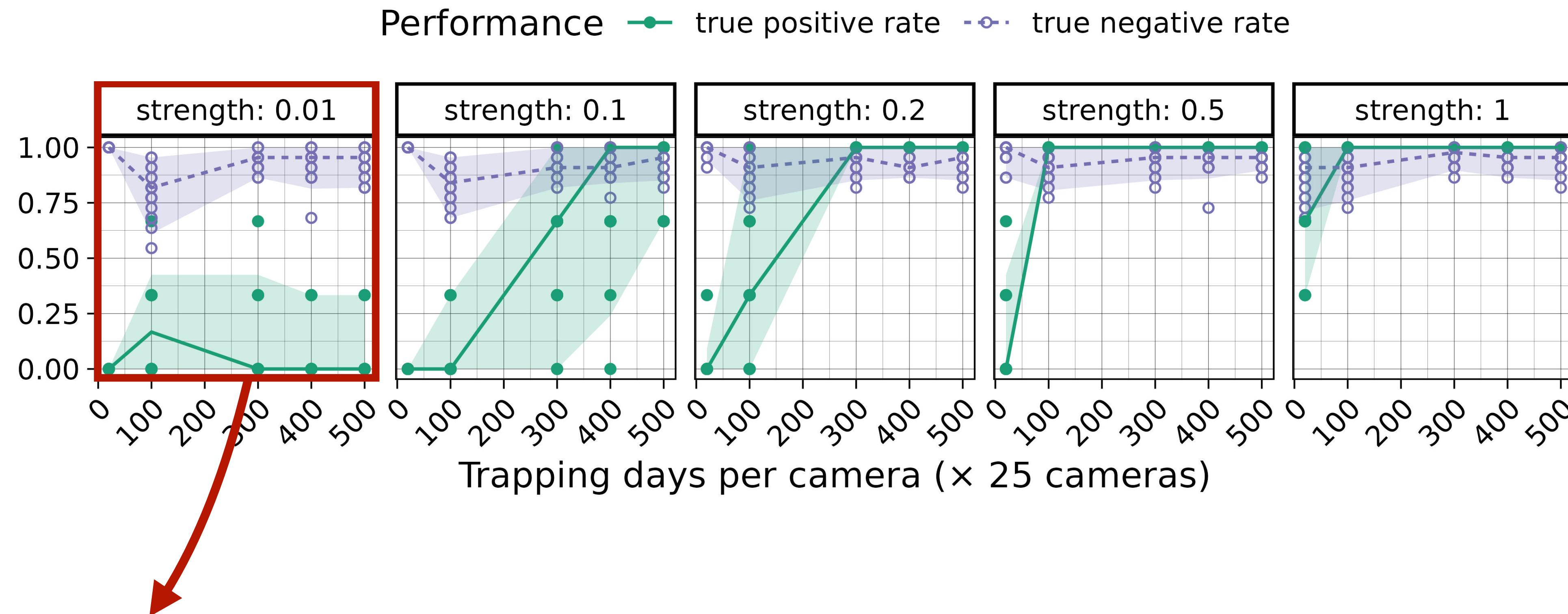
Results & discussion

Evaluate the inference



Results & discussion

Evaluate the inference



Poor performance with
weak interactions

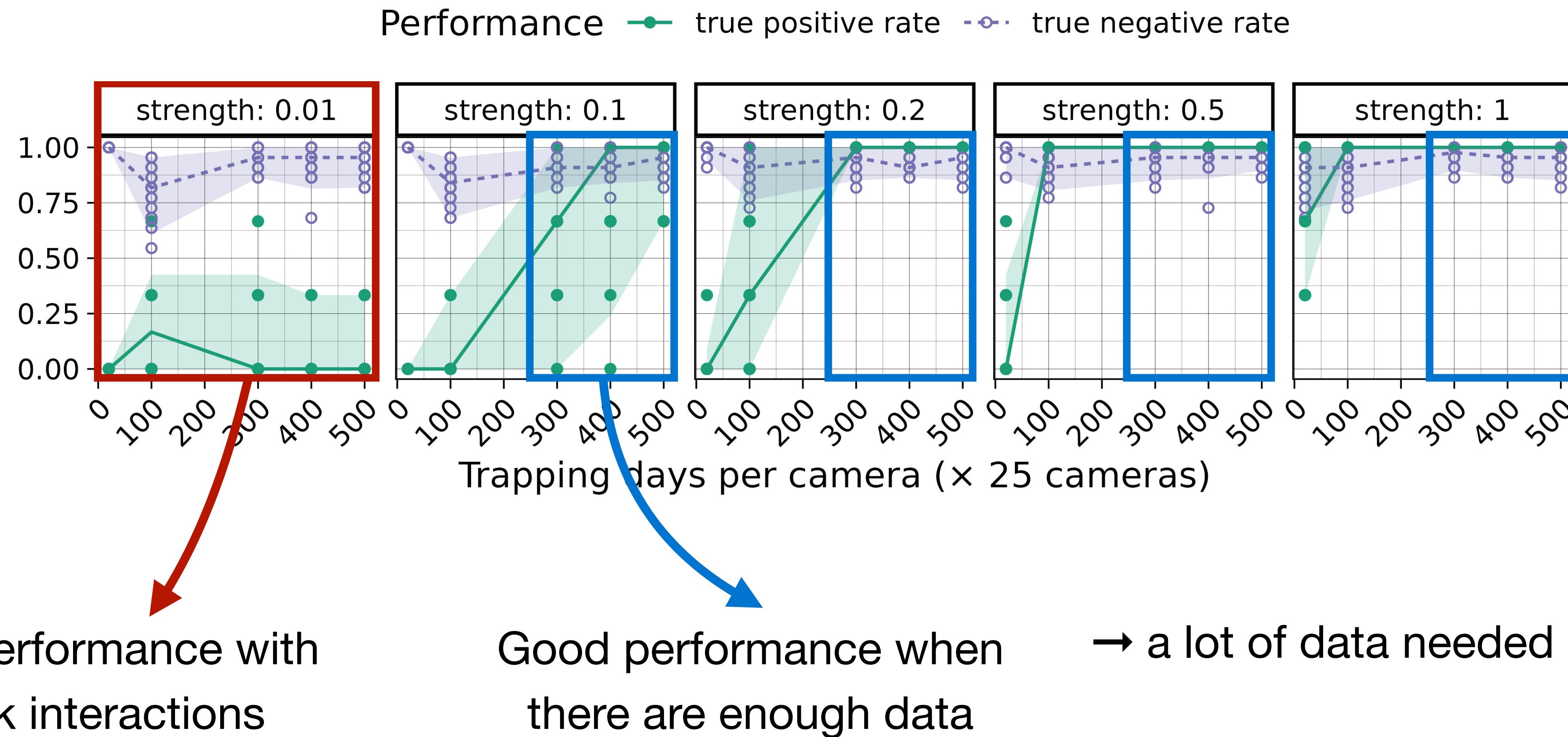
Results & discussion

Evaluate the inference



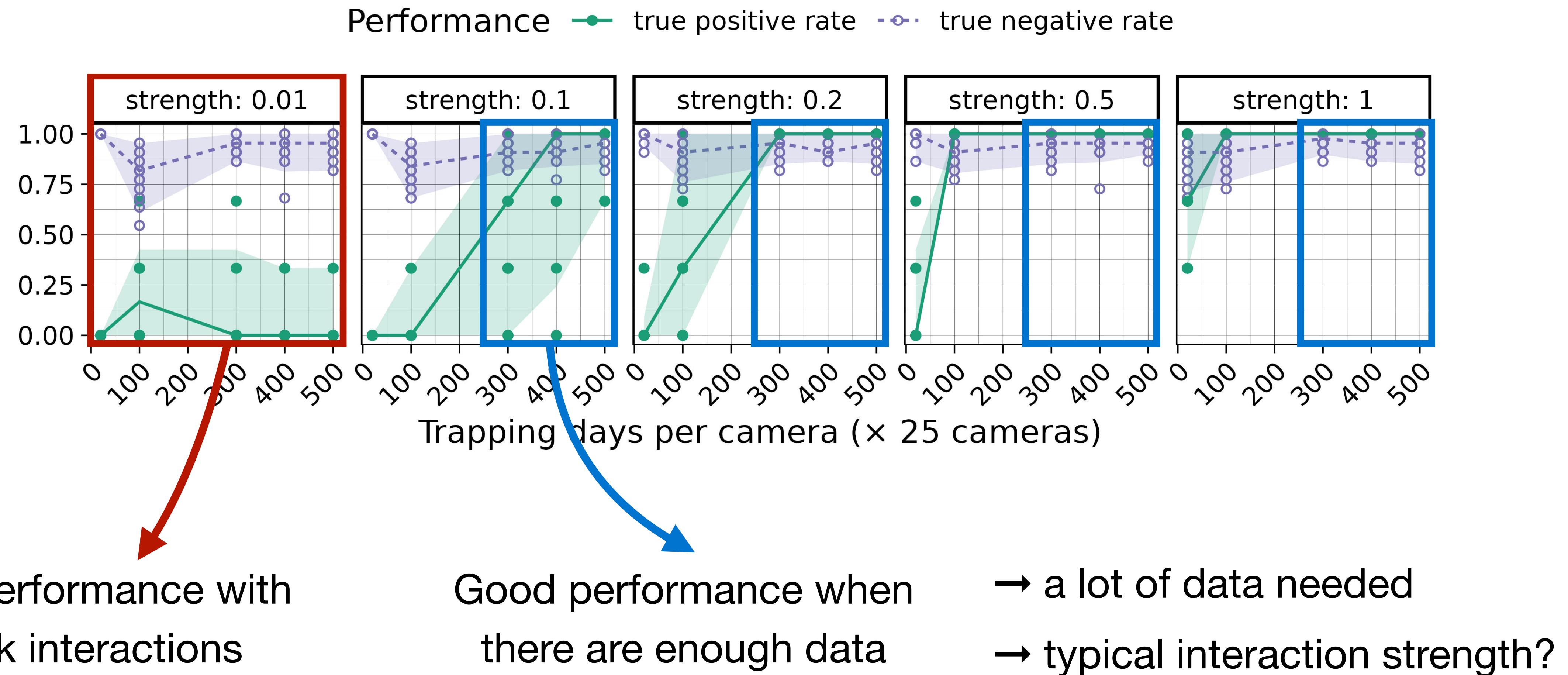
Results & discussion

Evaluate the inference



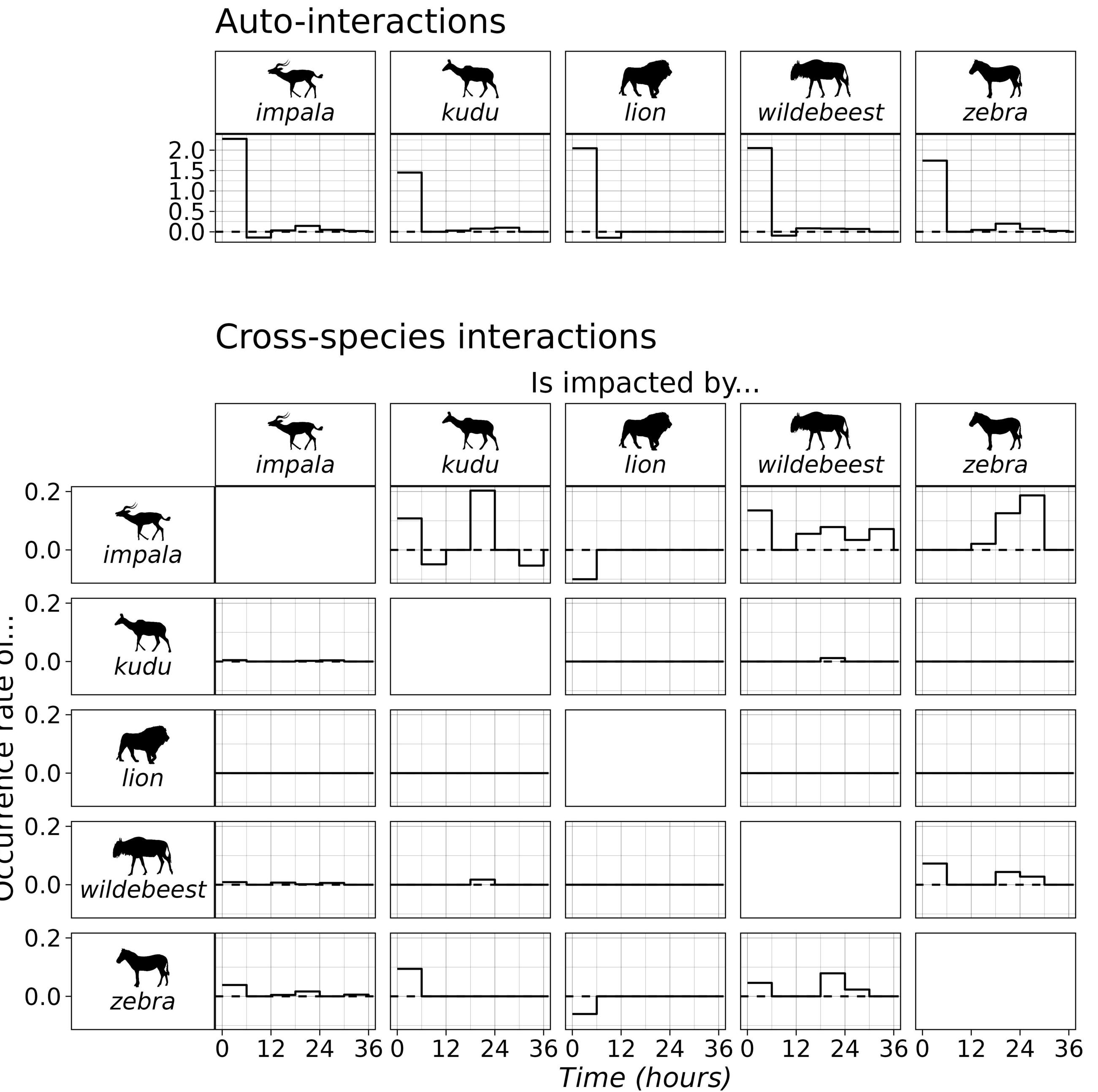
Results & discussion

Evaluate the inference



Results & discussion

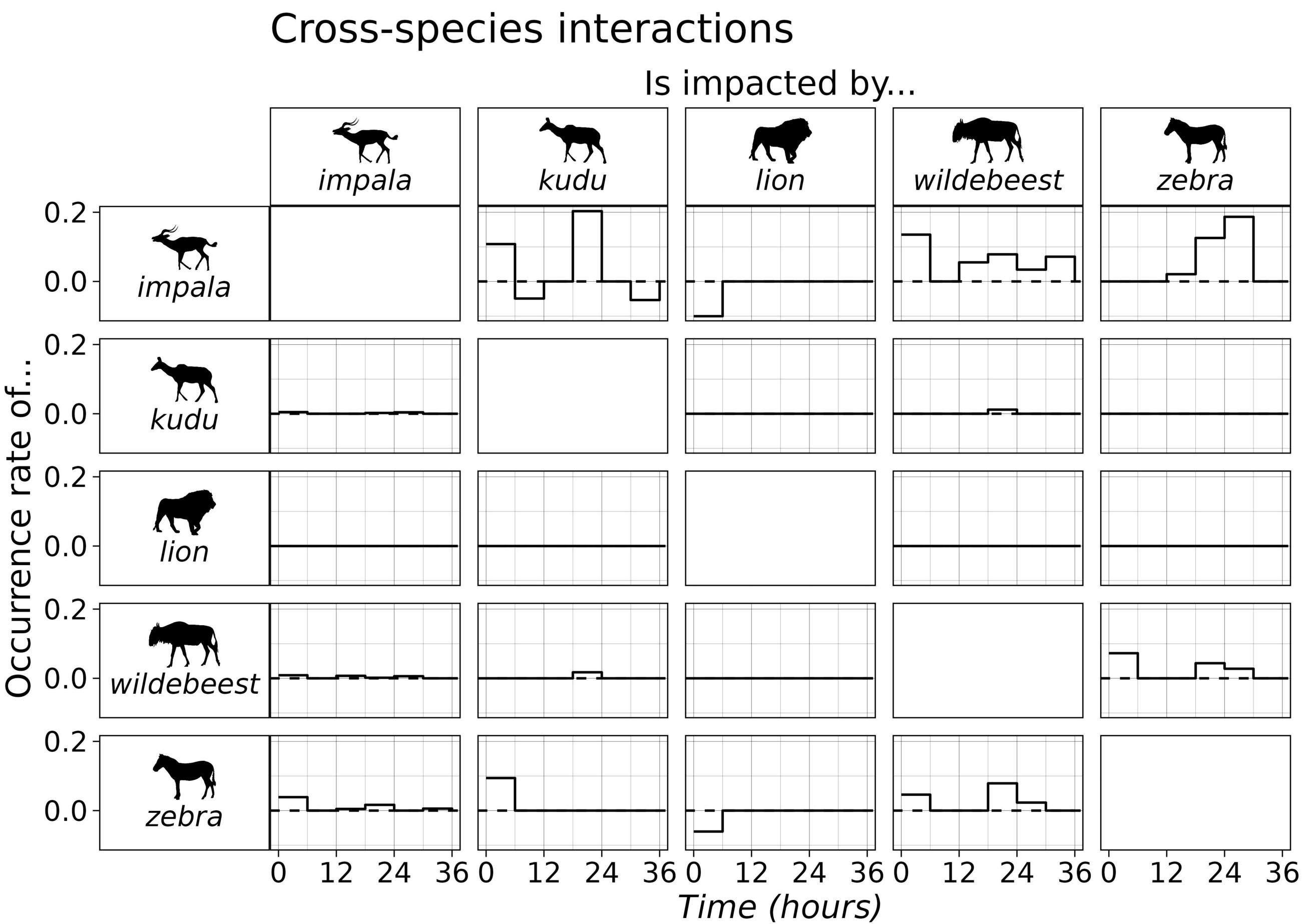
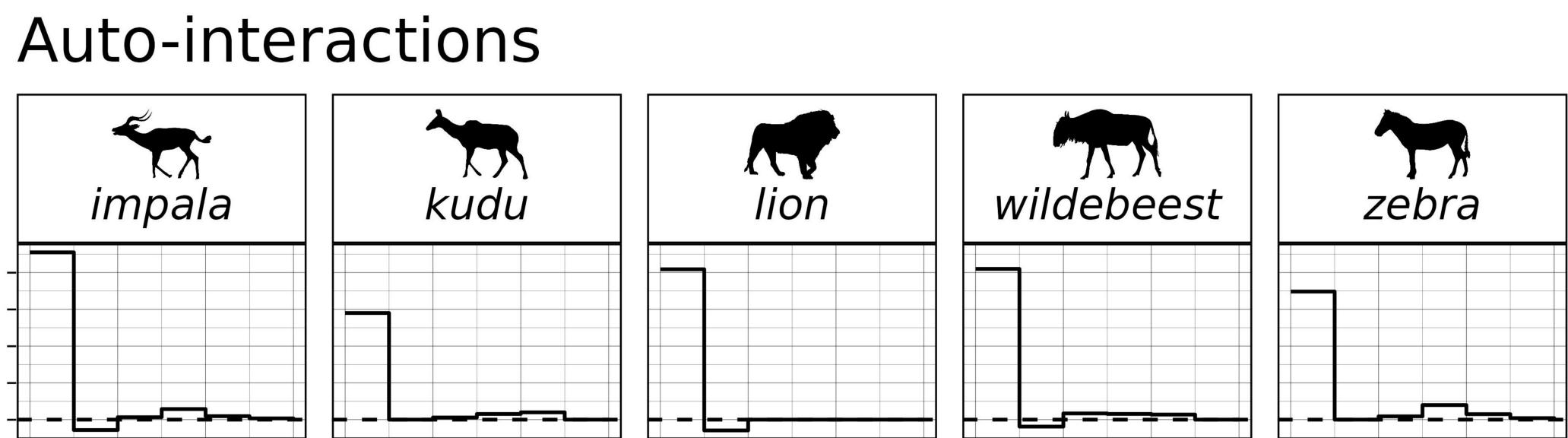
Data analysis



Results & discussion

Data analysis

Parametrization
36 hours
6 hours bins



Results & discussion

Data analysis

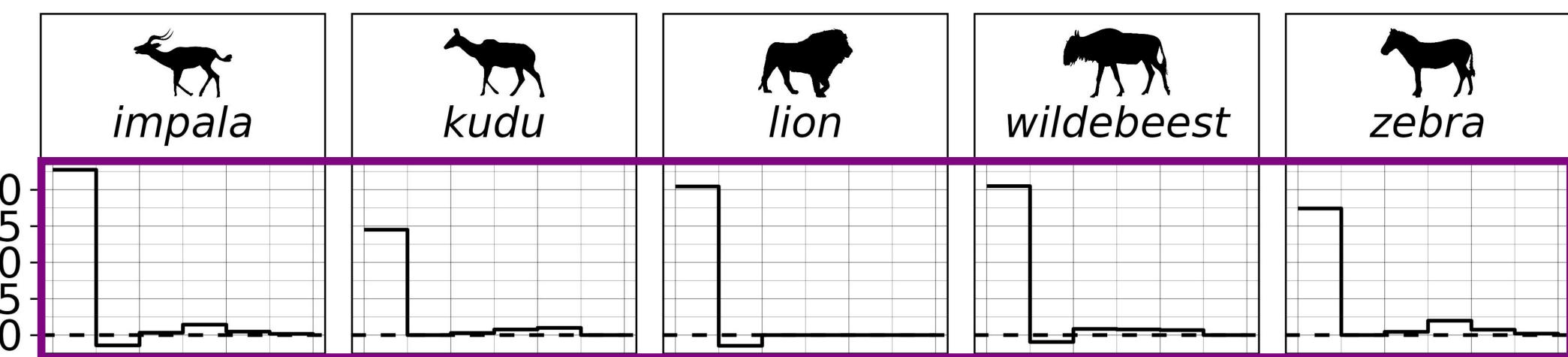
Strong auto-attractions

Parametrization

36 hours

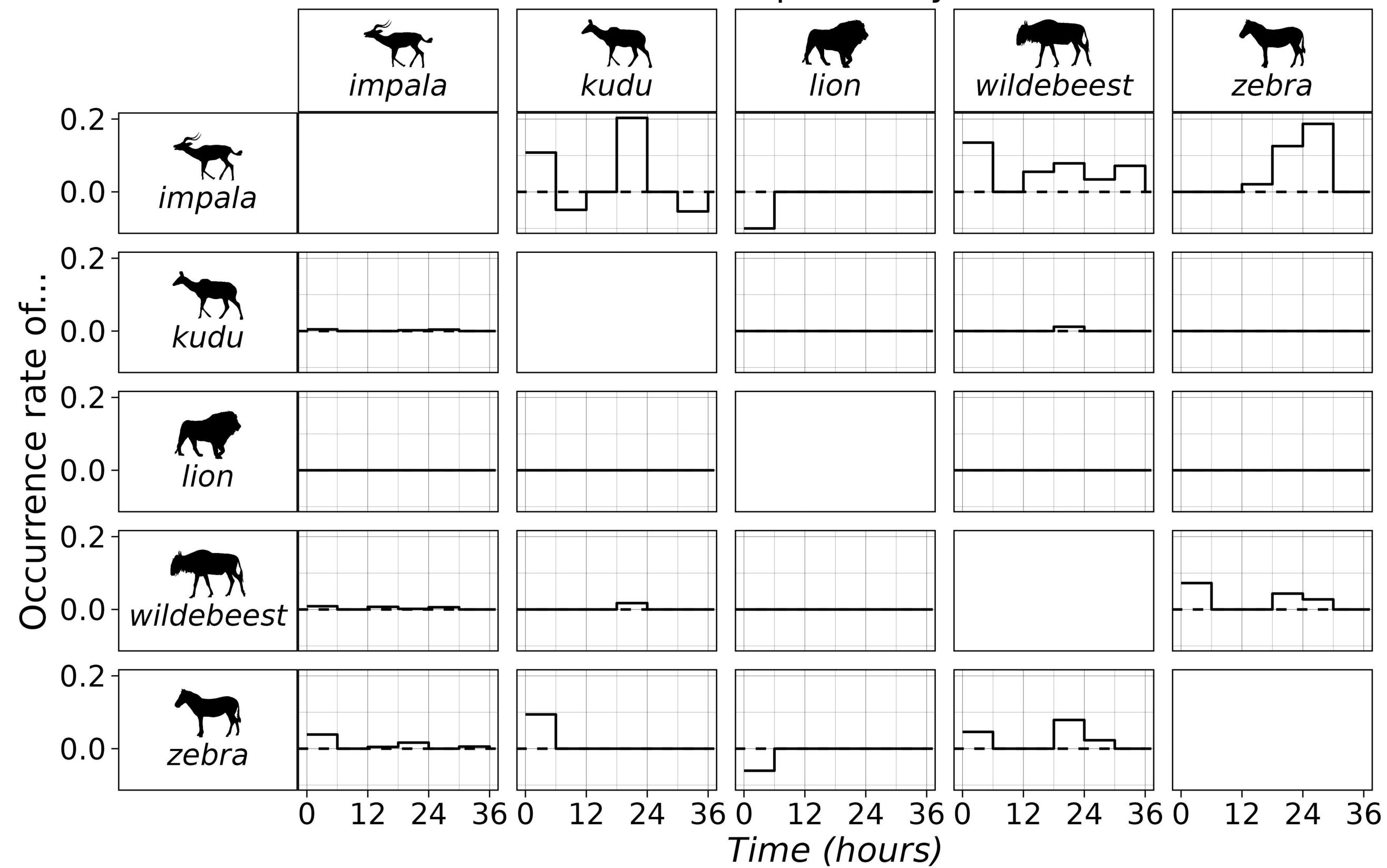
6 hours bins

Auto-interactions



Cross-species interactions

Is impacted by...



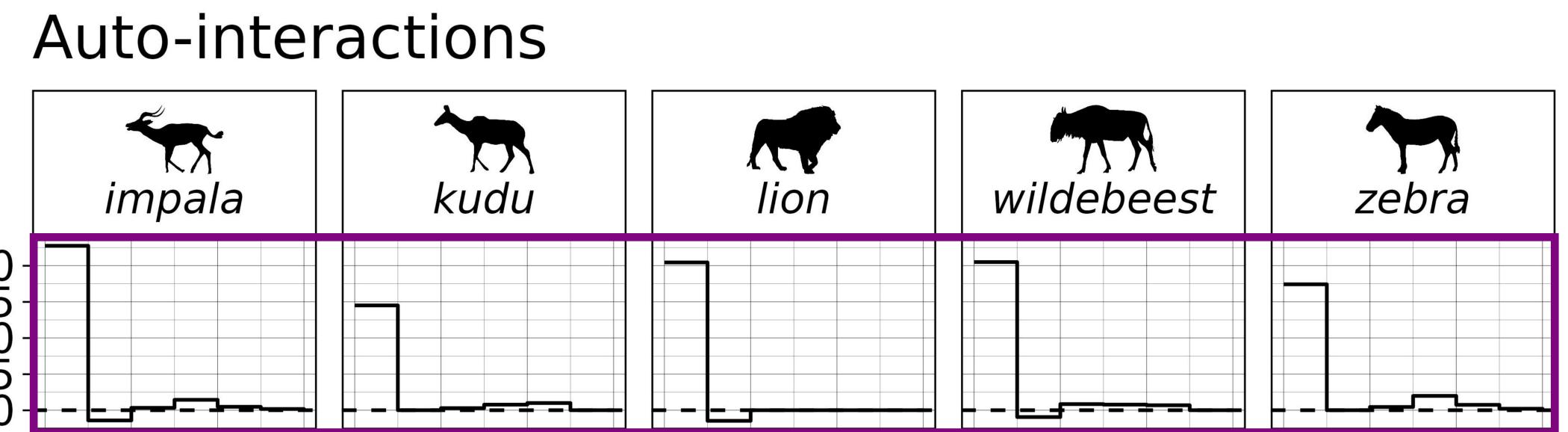
Results & discussion

Data analysis

Parametrization

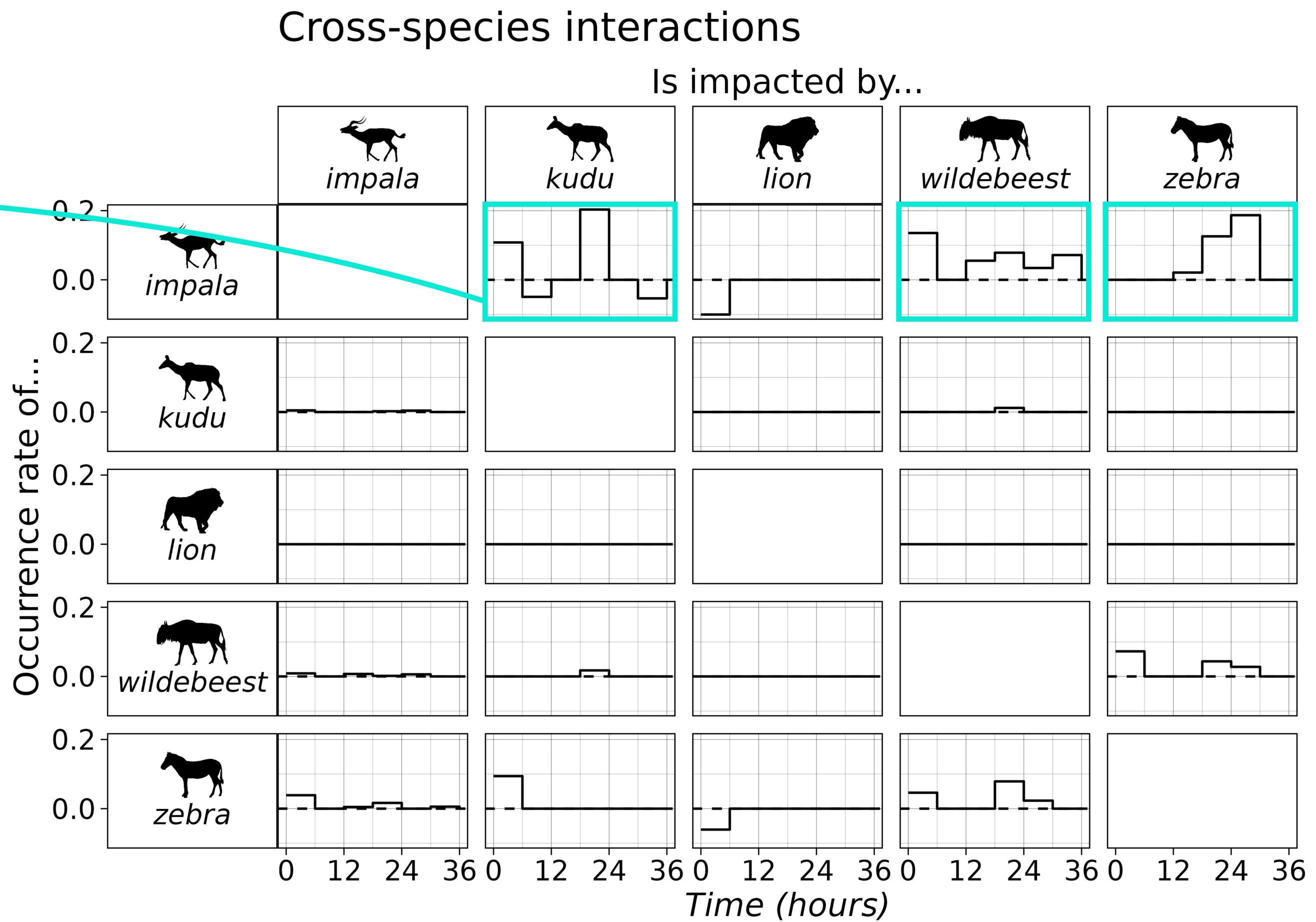
36 hours

6 hours bins



Strong auto-attractions

Impala attracted by other herbivores



Results & discussion

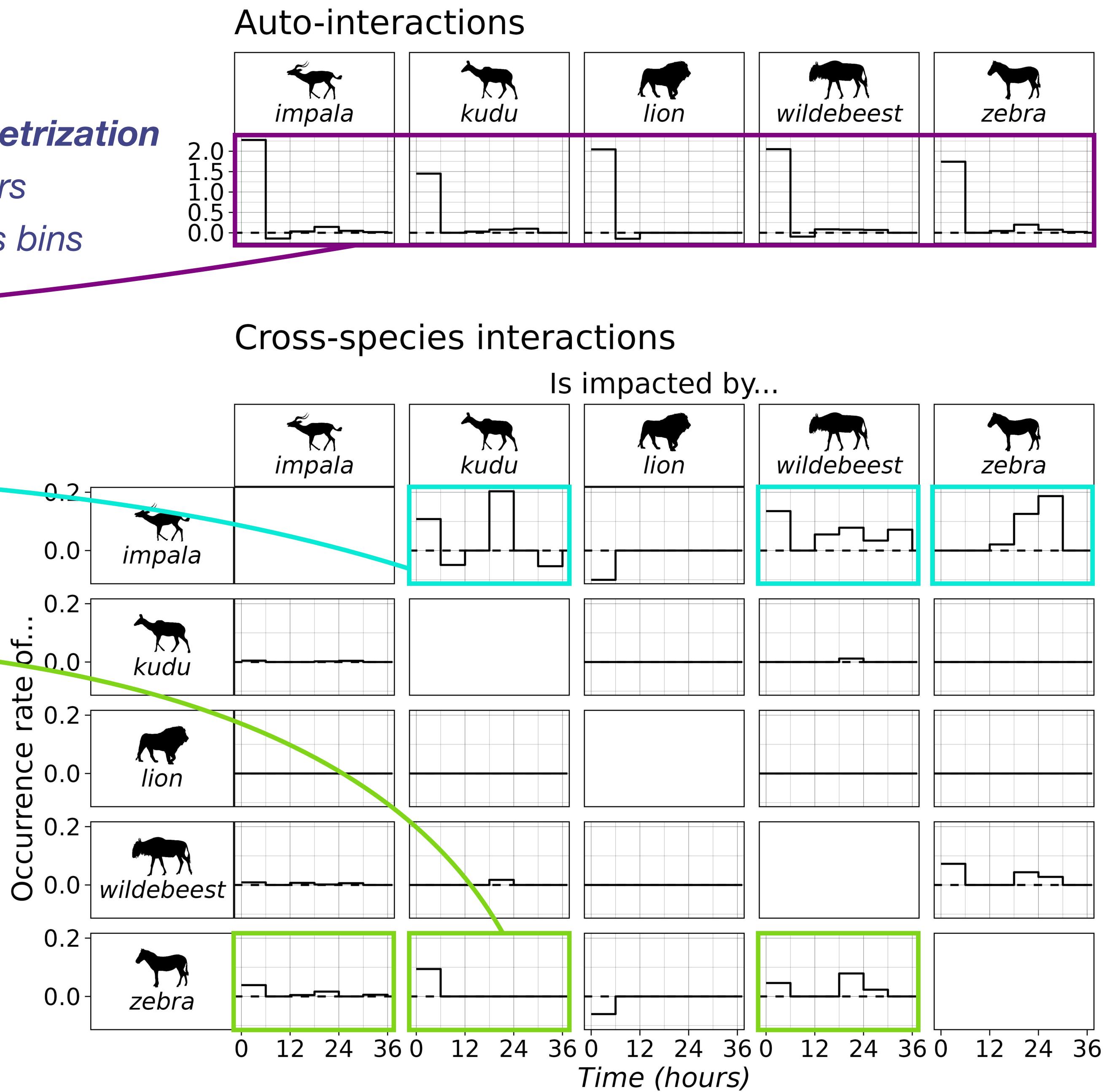
Data analysis

Parametrization
36 hours
6 hours bins

Strong auto-attractions

Impala attracted by other herbivores

Zebra attracted by other herbivores



Results & discussion

Data analysis

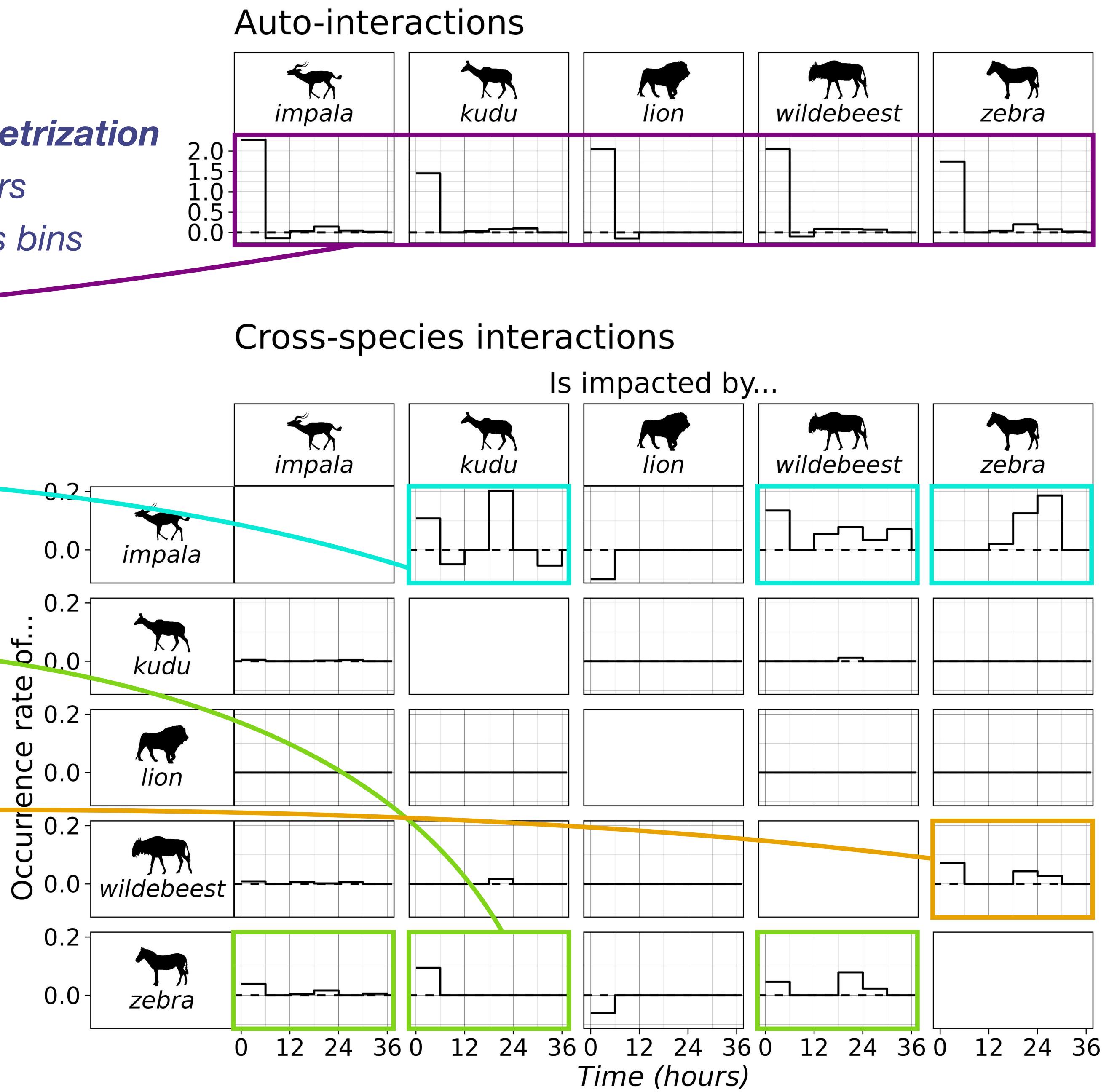
Parametrization
36 hours
6 hours bins

Strong auto-attractions

Impala attracted by other herbivores

Zebra attracted by other herbivores

Wildebeest attracted by zebra



Results & discussion

Data analysis

Parametrization
36 hours
6 hours bins

Strong auto-attractions

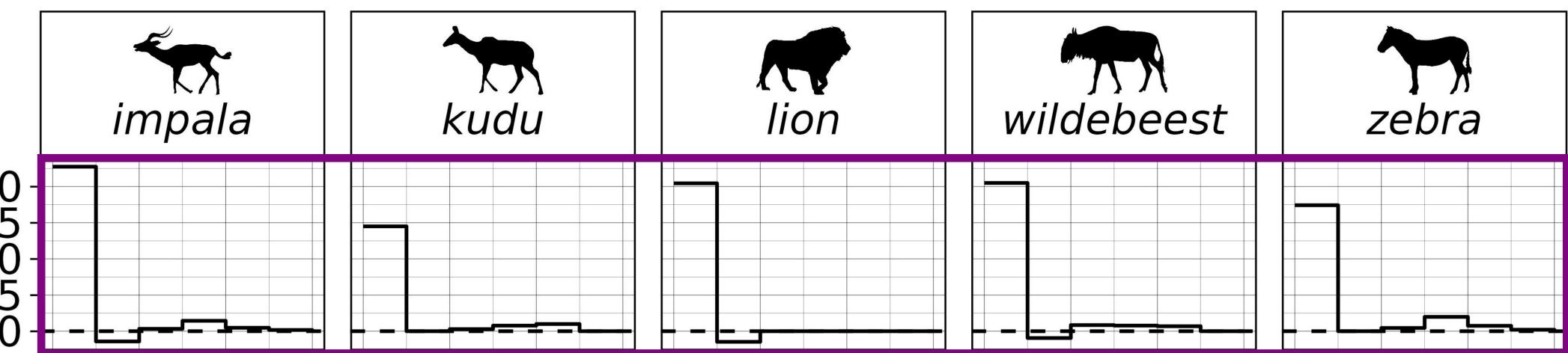
Impala attracted by other herbivores

Zebra attracted by other herbivores

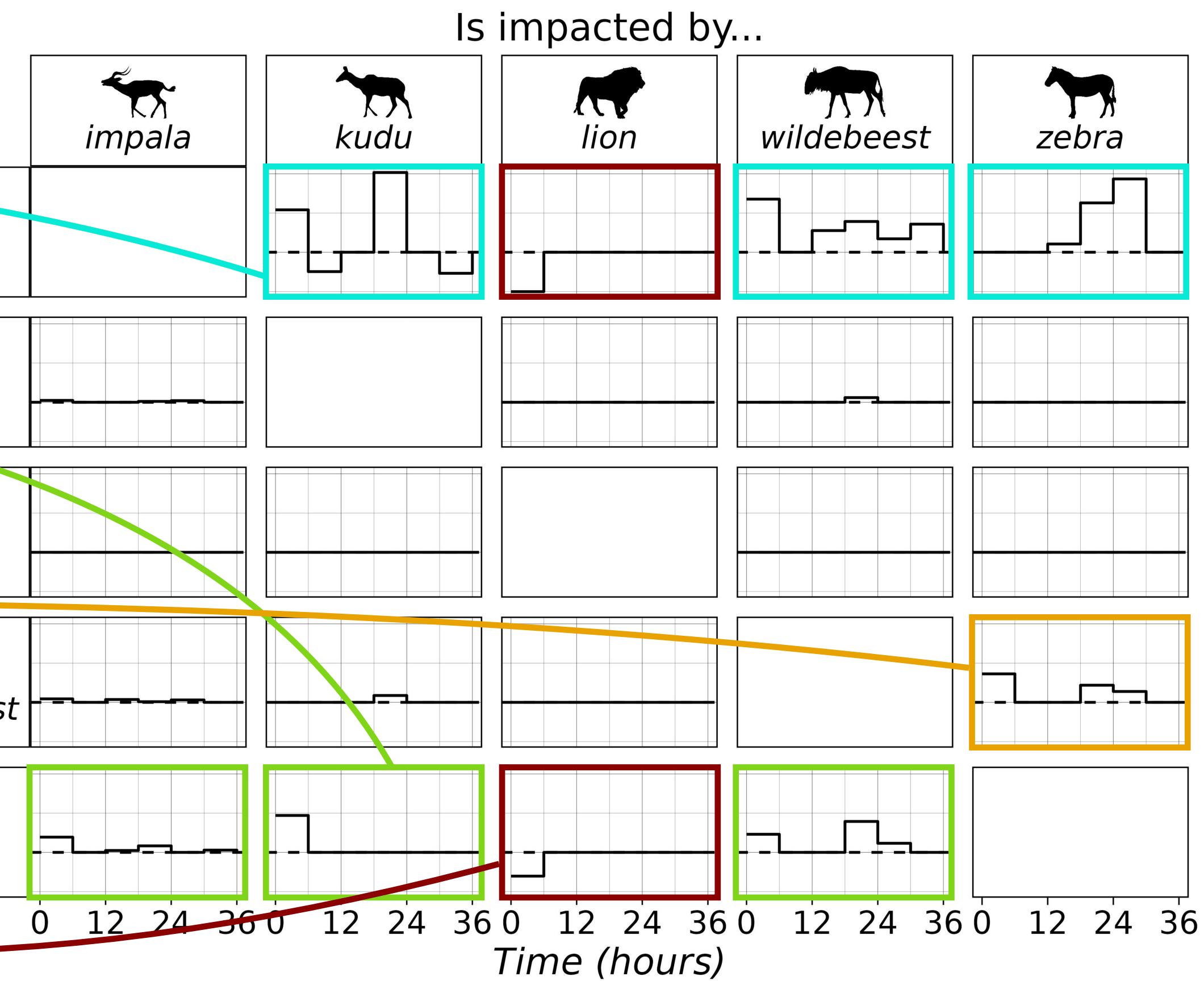
Wildebeest attracted by zebra

Impala and zebra avoiding lion

Auto-interactions



Cross-species interactions



Results & discussion

Interpretation

Results & discussion

Interpretation

Auto-attractions → Social behaviors



Group of impalas © Snapshot Safari

Results & discussion

Interpretation

Auto-attractions → Social behaviors

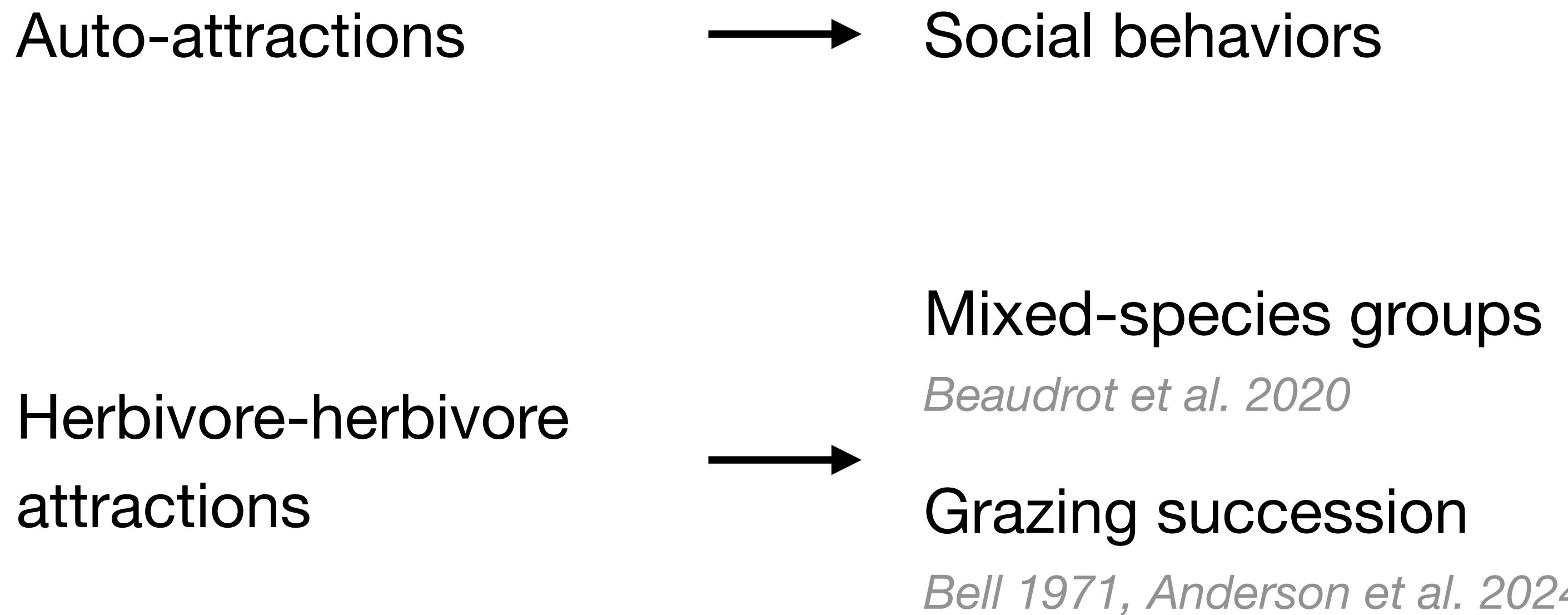
Herbivore-herbivore attractions → Mixed-species groups
Beaudrot et al. 2020



Impalas and zebras © Snapshot Safari

Results & discussion

Interpretation



Impalas and zebras © Snapshot Safari

Results & discussion

Interpretation

Auto-attractions → Social behaviors

Herbivore-herbivore attractions → Mixed-species groups
Beaudrot et al. 2020

Lion avoidance → Grazing succession
Bell 1971, Anderson et al. 2024

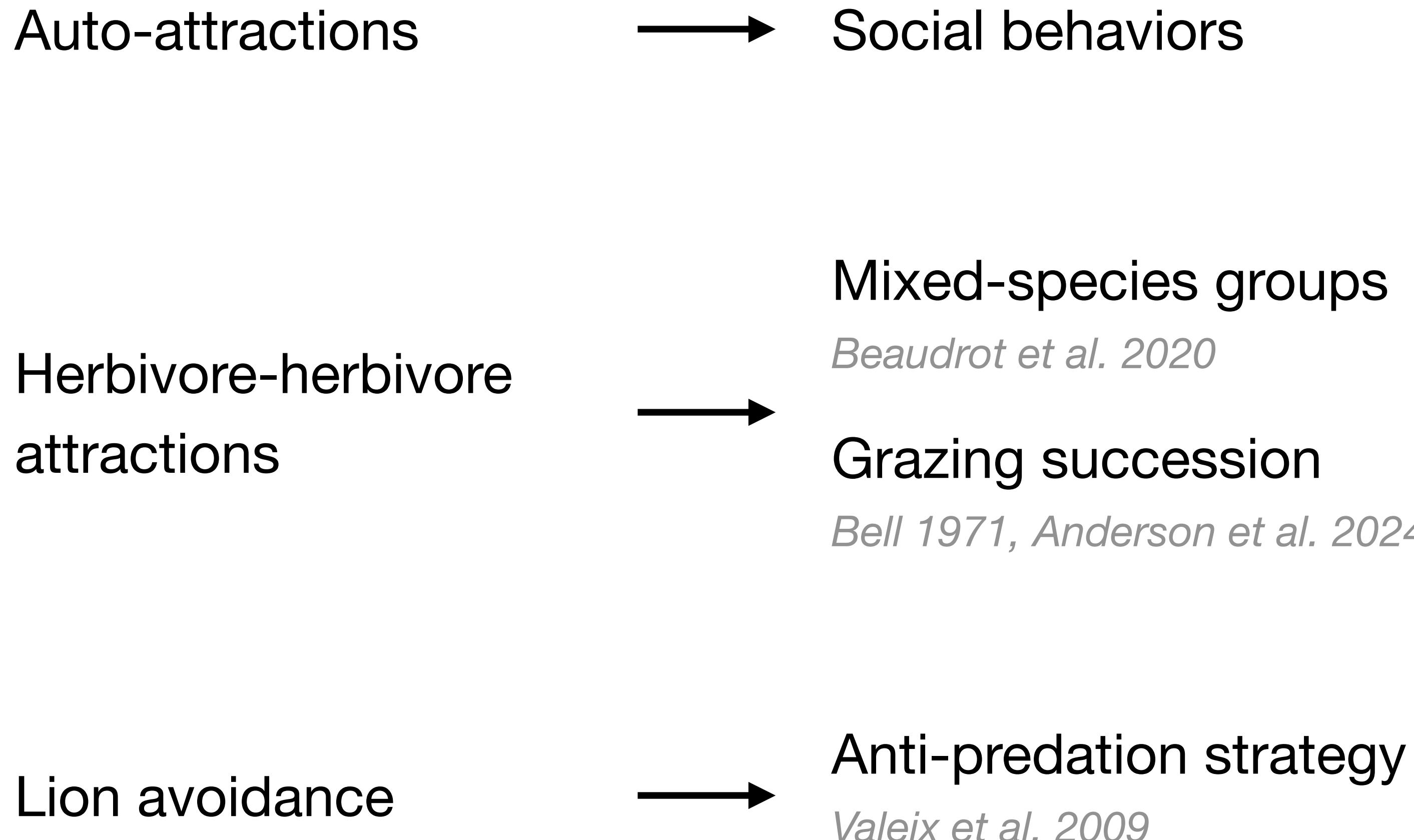
Lion avoidance → Anti-predation strategy
Valeix et al. 2009



Impala fleeing from lions © Gavin St Leger

Results & discussion

Interpretation

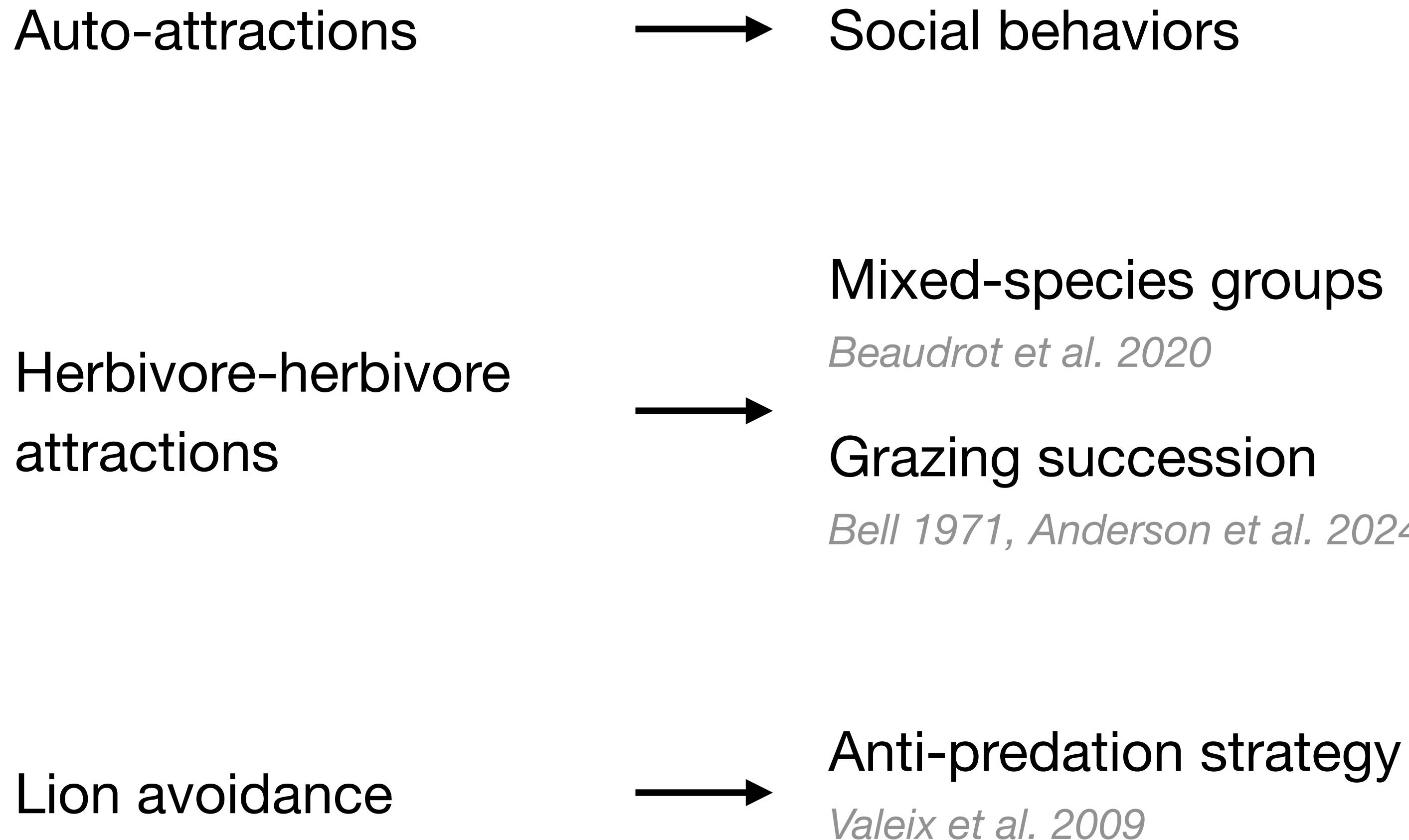


Confounding factors

- Spatial variables

Results & discussion

Interpretation



Confounding factors

- Spatial variables 
- Circadian rhythms 

Results & discussion

Conclusion & perspectives

distributions → interactions



ECOLOGY LETTERS

Ideas and Perspectives

Co-occurrence is not evidence of ecological interactions

F. Guillaume Blanchet✉, Kevin Cazelles, Dominique Gravel

Results & discussion

Conclusion & perspectives

distributions → interactions



ECOLOGY LETTERS

Ideas and Perspectives

~~Co-occurrence~~ is not evidence of ecological interactions yet
Temporal delay

F. Guillaume Blanchet✉, Kevin Cazelles, Dominique Gravel

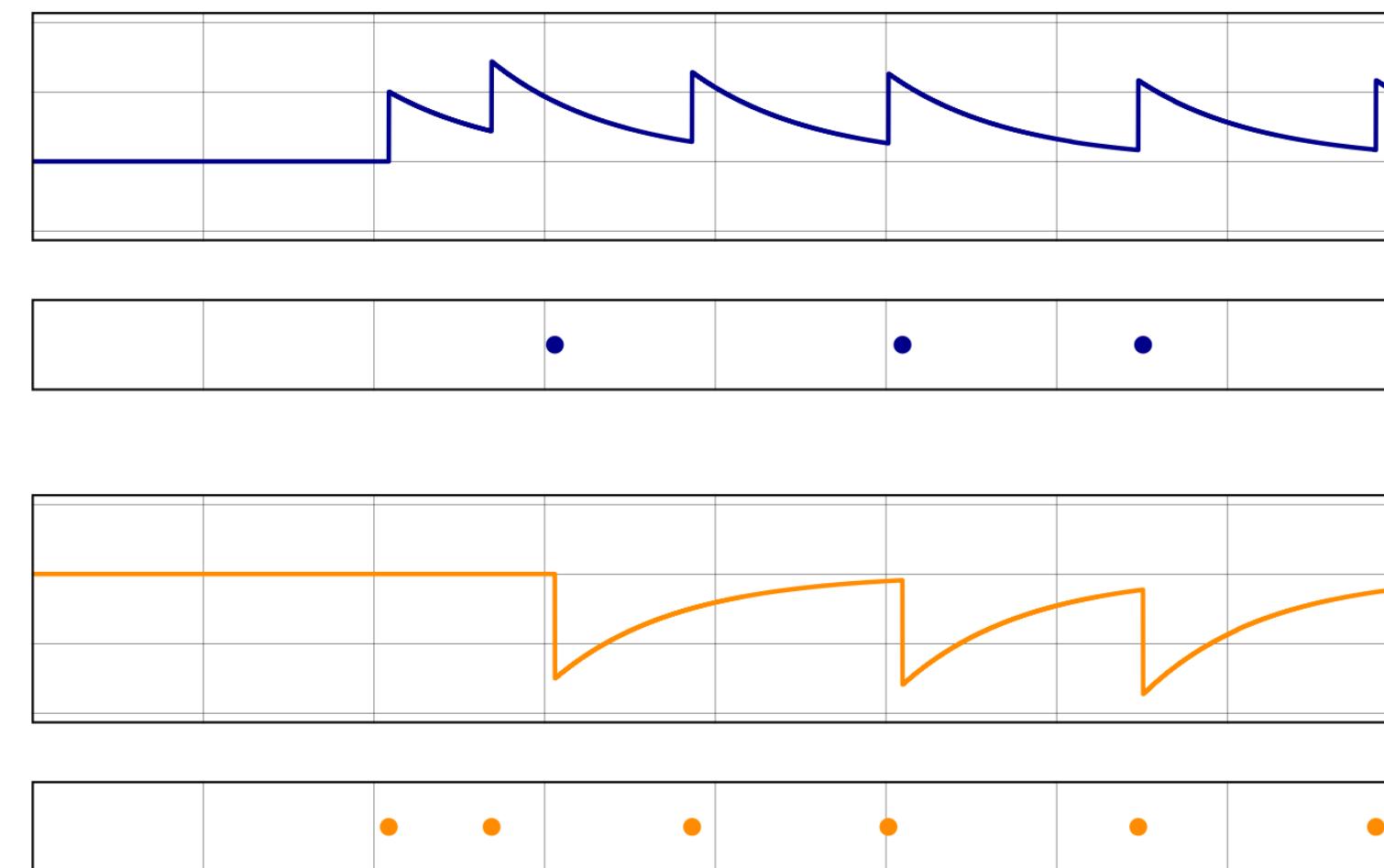
Results & discussion

Conclusion & perspectives

Point processes to analyze camera trap
data *Schliep et al. 2018, Kellner et al. 2022, Ferry et
al. 2024*



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Steenbok © Snapshot Safari

Results & discussion

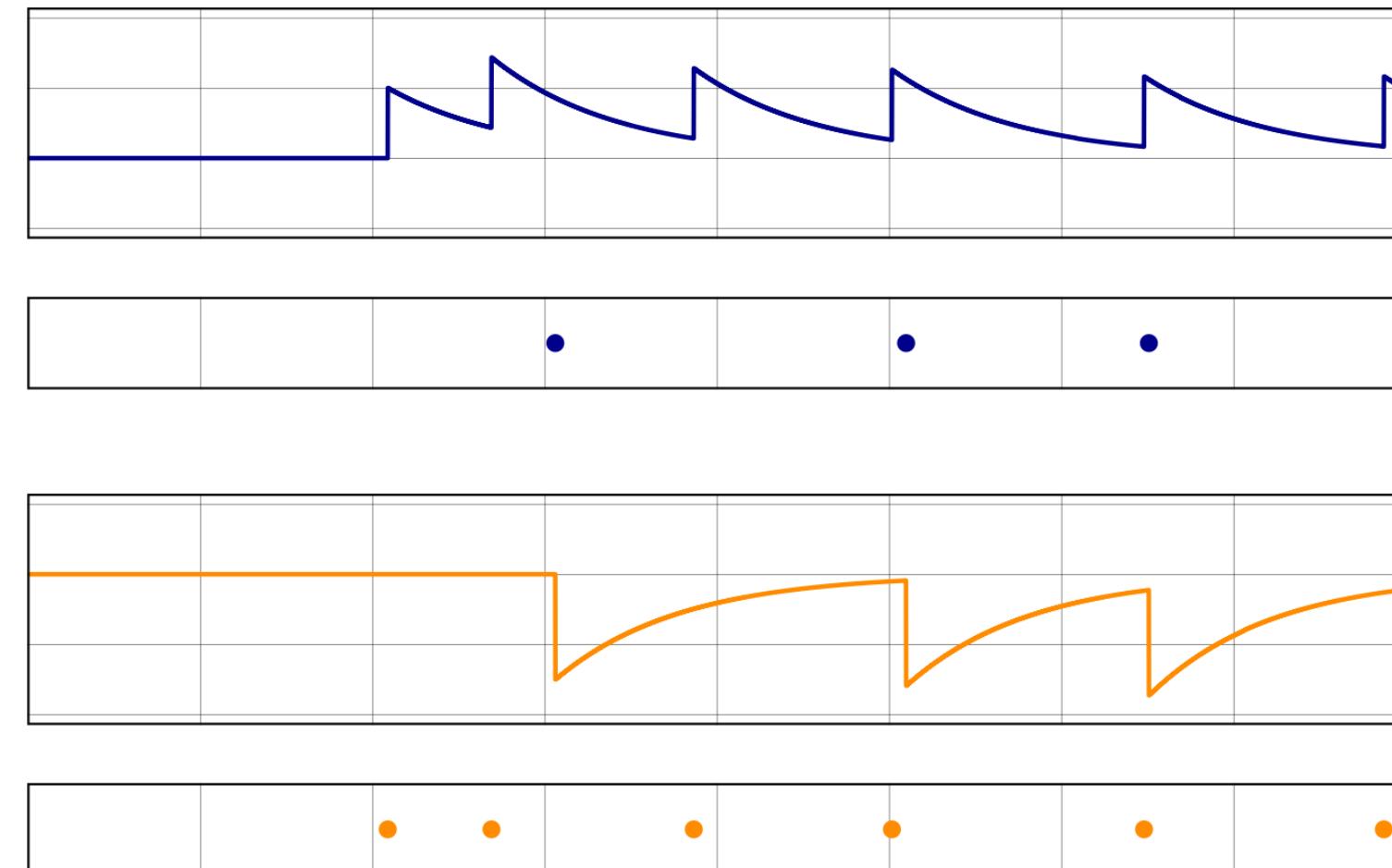
Conclusion & perspectives

Point processes to analyze camera trap
data *Schliep et al. 2018, Kellner et al. 2022, Ferry et
al. 2024*

- multi-species approach



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Steenbok © Snapshot Safari

Results & discussion

Conclusion & perspectives

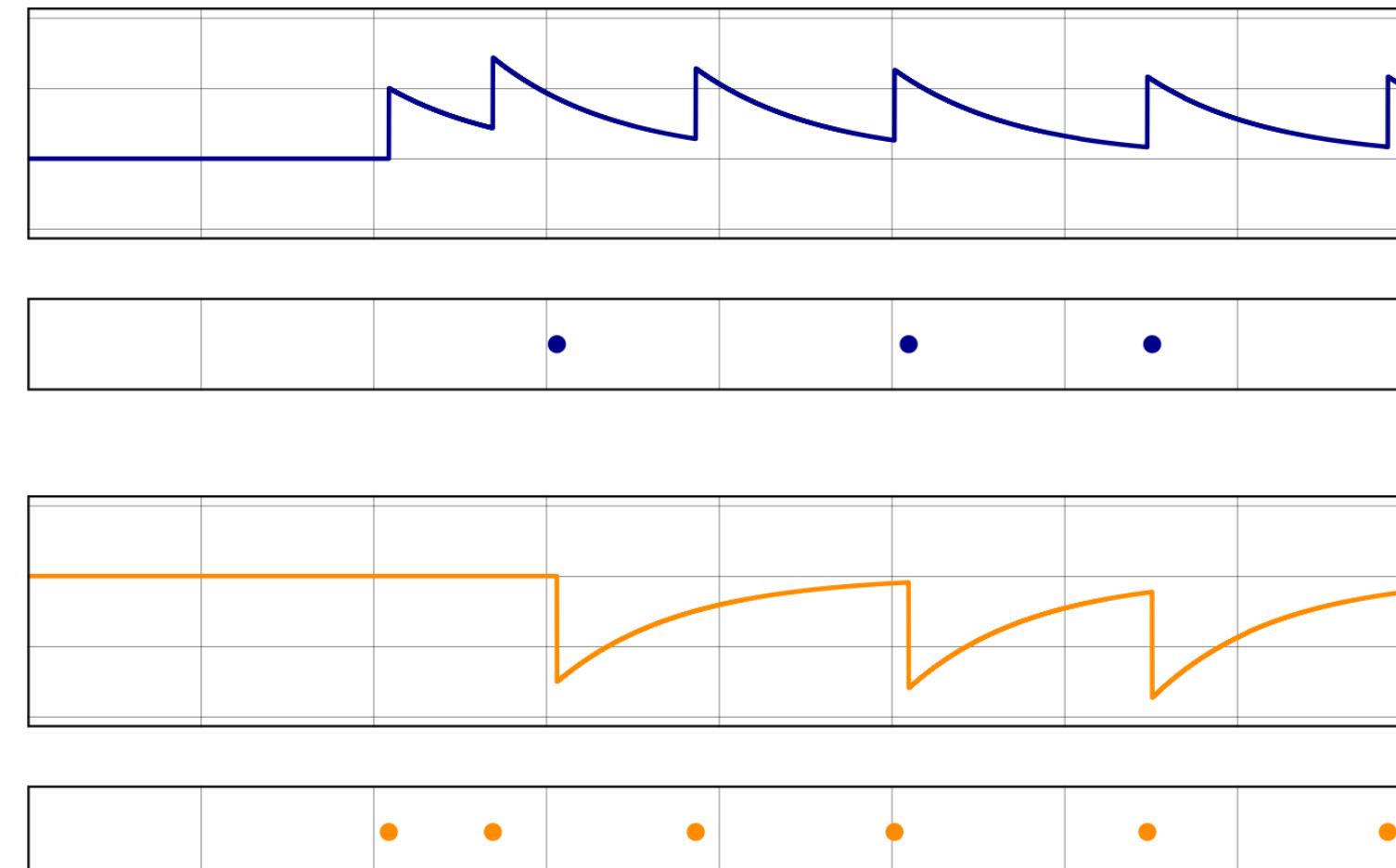
Point processes to analyze camera trap

data *Schliep et al. 2018, Kellner et al. 2022, Ferry et al. 2024*

- multi-species approach
- directed interactions



~



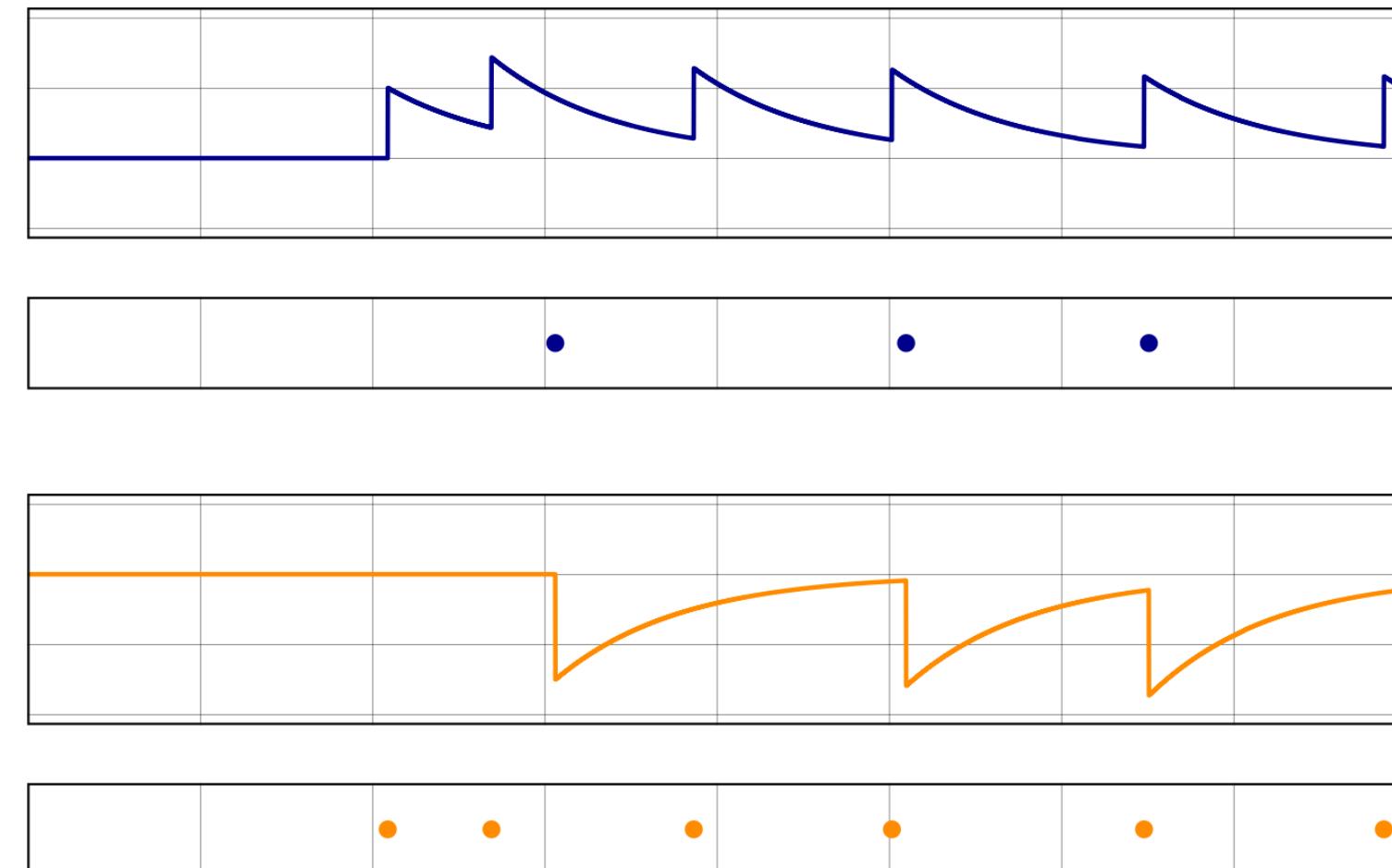
Steenbok © Snapshot Safari

Results & discussion

Conclusion & perspectives

Point processes to analyze camera trap
data *Schliep et al. 2018, Kellner et al. 2022, Ferry et
al. 2024*

- multi-species approach
- directed interactions
- temporal evolution of interaction strength



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Results & discussion

Conclusion & perspectives

Point processes to analyze camera trap

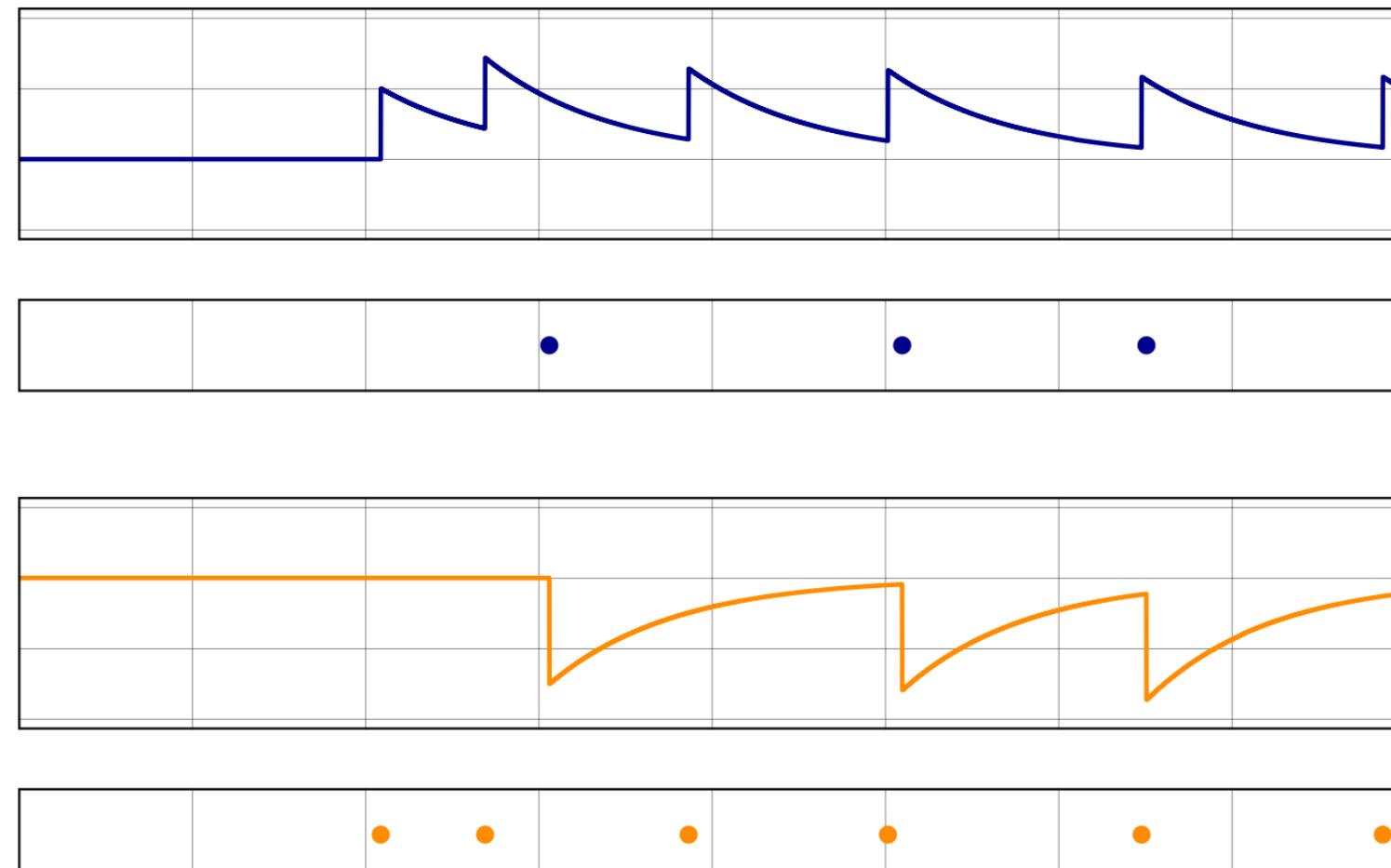
data *Schliep et al. 2018, Kellner et al. 2022, Ferry et al. 2024*

- multi-species approach
- directed interactions
- temporal evolution of interaction strength



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Perspectives



Results & discussion

Conclusion & perspectives

Point processes to analyze camera trap

data *Schliep et al. 2018, Kellner et al. 2022, Ferry et al. 2024*

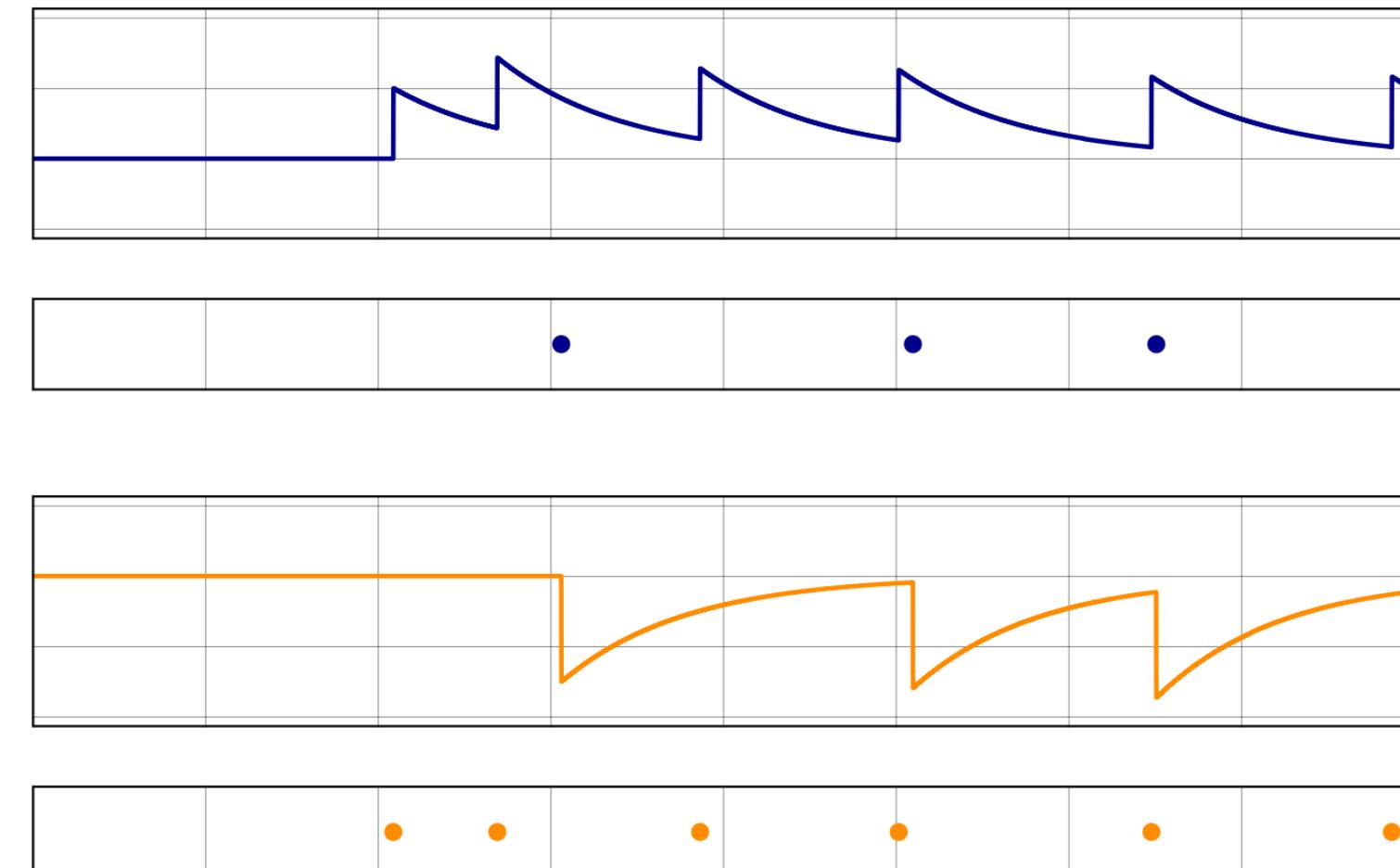
- multi-species approach
- directed interactions
- temporal evolution of interaction strength



Steenbok © Snapshot Safari

Perspectives

- improve model (covariates)



Results & discussion

Conclusion & perspectives

Point processes to analyze camera trap data *Schliep et al. 2018, Kellner et al. 2022, Ferry et al. 2024*

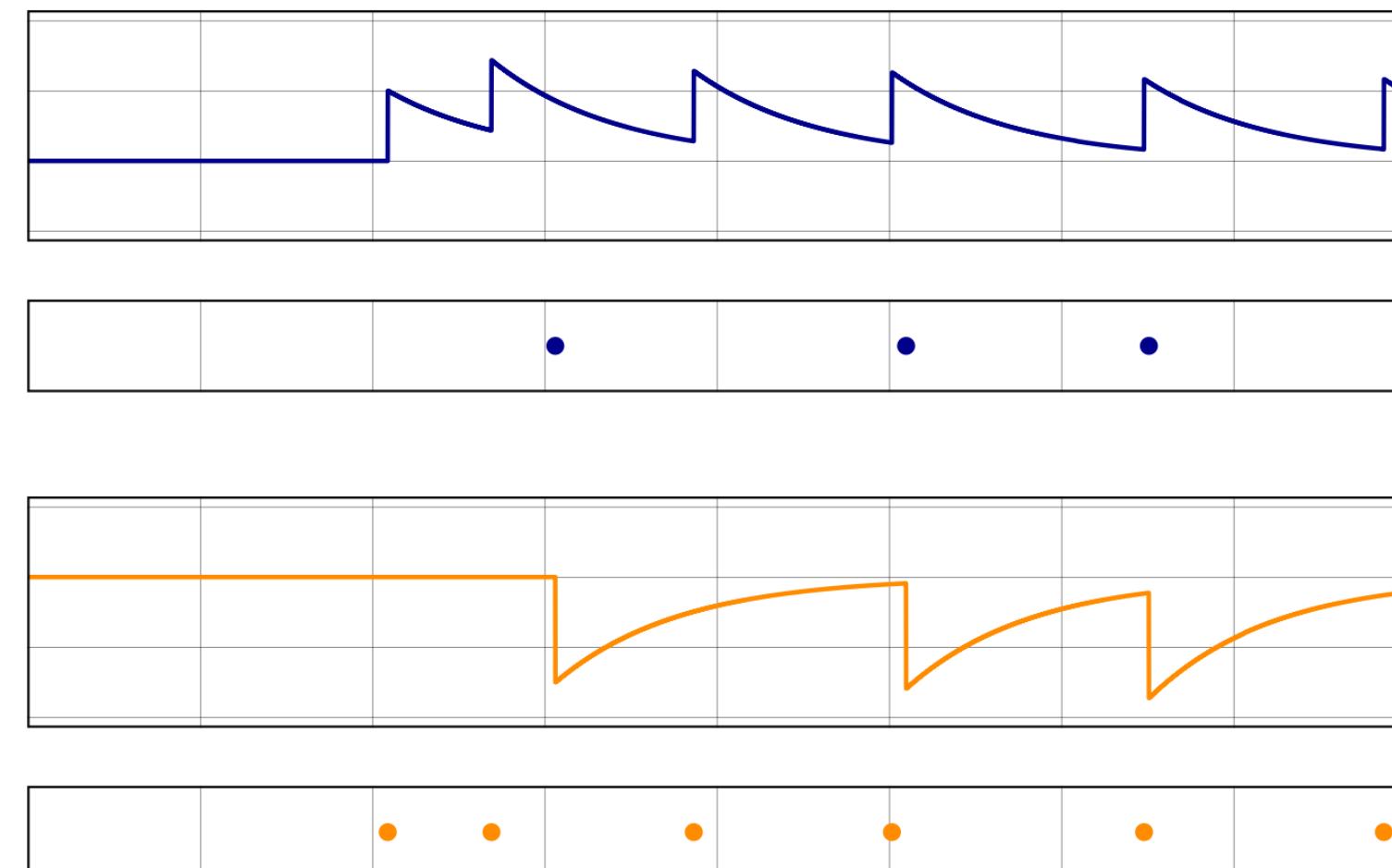
- multi-species approach
- directed interactions
- temporal evolution of interaction strength



Steenbok © Snapshot Safari

Perspectives

- improve model (covariates)
- controlled experiments → check hypotheses





Thank you!



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