PROCEDURAL OPTIMIZATION AND MEASUREMENT OF PASSIVE ACOUSTIC SENSOR NETWORKS FOR ANIMAL OBSERVATION IN MARINE ENVIRONMENTS

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Gregory L P Burgess

Thesis Committee:

Philip M Johnson, Chairperson
Kevin Weng

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To myself,

Perry H. Disdainful,

the only person worthy of my company.

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I want to "thank" my committee, without whose ridiculous demands, I would have graduated so, so, very much faster.

ABSTRACT

Static Observation Networks (SONs) are often used in the biological sciences to study animal migration and habitat. These networks are comprised of self-contained, stationary sensors that continuously listen for acoustic transmissions released by sonic tags carried by individual animals. The transmissions released by these tags carry serial identification numbers that can be used to verify that a particular individual was near a given sensor. Sensors in these networks are stationary; therefore, sensor placement is critical to maximizing data recovery. Currently, no open-source automated mechanism exists to facilitate the design of optimal sensor networks. SON design is often governed by loose "rules of thumb" and "by eye" readings of low resolution bathymetric maps. Moreover, there is no standardized method for evaluating the efficacy of a SON. In this paper, we present a system which takes advantage of high-resolution bathymetric data and advanced animal modeling to provide optimal network designs. Our system also allows for statistical analysis of existing network configurations in order to create efficacy-metrics that can be used to evaluate arbitrary network configurations.

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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

Static Acoustic Observation Networks (SAONs) are often used in the biological sciences to study aquatic animal migration and habitat. These networks are comprised of self-contained, stationary sensors (hydrophones) that continuously listen for acoustic transmissions released by sonic tags carried by individual animals. The transmissions released by these tags carry serial identification numbers that can be used to verify that a particular individual was within detection range of a specific sensor at a given time. Acoustic networks are relatively inexpensive (compared to GPS/VHF Radio/Satellite tags). The primary goal of any tracking study is to obtain a high number of high quality data points (relating individual animals to space and time) in order to gain some insight into animal behavior. SAONs provide a way to generate a large volume of data points at low cost, resulting in cost-efficient data points. However, unless these data points are captured, the cost efficiency of SAONs is lost. Within SAONs, data capture rates are highly dependent upon the chosen locations for sensors within the study area. The malplacement of sensors (in locations that interfere with the reception of data or where no tagged individuals are present) leads to low data returns, wasted resources, and diminished cost-efficiency. We present an application that takes advantage of high resolution bathymetry, flexible behavioral modeling, and simplified acoustic propagation models to maximize the data recovery of a SAON. Our application provides a reproducible, customizable, and distributable method for generating optimal sensor placements and analytical network metrics.

1.1   Static Acoustic Observation Networks

1.1.1   Sensor Assembly

[Diagram of rigging] SAONs are composed of stationary rigs that are responsible for maintaining the chosen location for a sensor. Because positional data is interpolated from the position of nearby sensors, it is important that sensors are deployed accurately and maintain their position throughout the entire experiment[11]. This is best accomplished by attaching sensors to permanent emplacements (such as a rigid metal frame driven into a rocky substrate) that will resist substantial amounts of force (such as strong currents and curious animals). However, when it is not always possible to create such permanent emplacements (perhaps due to regulation or extreme depth), more creative approaches are called for. A popular rigging consists of an acoustic sensor attached to a length of wire/rope with a strong float on one end, and a substantial ballast with an acoustic quick release on the other[11]. Such a rig can be dropped in the ocean and allowed to sink to its desired location. Obviously, various situations will require different rig designs and may contribute significantly to network costs (acoustic releases cost approximately $2700 per piece).

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1.1.2 Sensor Deployment & Recovery

The labor required for sensor deployment and recovery depends on the design of the sensor assembly. Creating a permanent, rigid emplacement for a sensor can require multiple divers, special equipment, and hours of underwater elbow grease. Recovery of a permanent, rigid emplacement will most likely require a diver to physically remove the sensor from its emplacement. Deployment of ballast/float assemblies can be as simple as dropping the assembly overboard. Recovering a ballast/float assembly simply requires signaling the acoustic release with a hydrophone and allowing the buoy to carry the sensor assembly to the surface.

1.1.3 Tag Deployment

The most challenging and time consuming task in animal tracking is the physical deposition/implantation of tags on/into the individuals to be tracked. In the case of marine tracking, this can be particularly challenging as animals must be located, captured, tagged, and released relatively quickly to avoid over-stressing the animals. Improper handling/release of an animal can result in its death and the loss of a tag. All telemetry technologies will eventually require interaction with the individual to be tracked, and acoustic tracking is no different.

1.1.4 Comparison of Technologies

1.1.4.1 Very High Frequency Radio

Very High Frequency radio (VHF) tracking involves attaching a VHF transmitter to an animal, and then using a VHF antenna and receiver to receive transmissions. VHF transmissions have effective ranges on the order of tens of kilometers. Transmissions from VHS devices do not generally contain positional data, but instead serve as a means to estimate the distance and direction of a VHS device. Positional data is derived by noting the direction and strength of a signal from several different observational positions, and estimating the transmitter's position by triangulation[8]. In a marine setting, VHF observation is generally performed from a plane or boat[1].

1.1.4.1.0.1 Sateallite/GPS Satellite and GPS tracking are distinct but related technologies that rely on a network of satellites (either ARGOS or GPS, respectively) to compute the positional data of a tag. GPS tags rely on the GPS network of satellites to triangulate a tag's three dimensional position. GPS telemetry may be stored on-board a tag (requiring later retrieval), or transmitted via satellite to a remote server[8]. Satellite tags operate by transmitting messages to the ARGOS satellite system, which computes a tag's position by observing the Doppler effect on a tag's transmission[2]. Because the telemetry from satellite tags is transmitted back to remote servers, data recovery is automatic. Both technologies have fairly poor penetration into the ocean, and so GPS/Satellite transmissions generally occur only when an animal is near the surface of the

ocean. This can lead to data sets with large spatial/temporal gaps between detections. Additionally, neither technology is desirable for observing animals that reside at significant depths. Due to the high cost of Satellite/GPS technology, studies using this technology generally have very small sample sizes.

1.1.5 Advantages of Acoustic Networks

After initial deployment, SAONs require no maintenance and incur no operating costs (unlike satellite and VHF radio technologies). This means that SAONs can operate around the clock, and in conditions that would otherwise make it unsafe/impossible for field researchers to track animals (e.g. in a storm)[11]. However, it is necessary to retrieve the acoustic sensors at the end of the study in order to recover data[11]. Finally, SAONs allow for passive animal monitoring, removing the potential disruption of natural behavior caused by active tracking (e.g. aircraft/boat noise/shadow scaring animals)[11]. SAONs also function at greater depths than satellite/VHF-based systems. Because the reception of acoustic transmissions (by acoustic sensors) occurs at the resident depth of the target species, an acoustic tag's transmission need not penetrate to the surface to be detected (unlike Satellite and GPS based systems).

1.2 The Cost of Data

1.2.1 Cost of Alternative Technologies

SAONs are relatively cheap, with acoustic sensors costing \$1300, and acoustic tags costing \$330 each. Moorings for acoustic receivers can be significantly more expensive, with acoustic releases costing slightly more than twice the cost of a receiver. However, these costs are still significantly more affordable than satellite-based tags and collars, which cost upwards of \$5000 each[5]. Additionally, recurring service fees and per-transmission charges may apply to data transferred over the satellite network. VHS radio tags are a seemingly cheaper alternative at \$223 per unit, but require active monitoring to obtain each data point. The cost of paying for vehicles(boats/planes) and crews to periodically collect telemetry from these tags will significantly outweigh any initial cost savings.

Technology	Tag Cost	Receiver Cost	Operating Cost
VHF Radio Tag	\$223[4]	\$2940[3]	Agents & Transport
Satellite Tag	\$3000-\$5000[5]	\$0	Service fees
Acoustic Network	\$330	\$1300	\$0

Table 1.1: Cost Summary of Alternative Technologies

1.2.2 Operating Costs

While SAONs require no maintenance to operate, both Satellite and VHF based systems can incur operating costs while deployed. Satellite tags will require very little maintenance (precluding animal mortality), but satellite network operators may charge for access to and transmission over their network[5]. VHF systems require little maintenance, but do require active field work in order to obtain positional information. Because a tag's location is interpolated from observations of its VHS signal from multiple locations, it is necessary for a field agent to routinely collect these observations to obtain telemetry data. VHF networks have perhaps the highest operating cost, requiring a salary for one or more field agent(s) and transportation costs (renting a boat/plane). The operating costs for each technology should be included in the total cost of data collection, and subsequently the cost effectiveness of each solution.

[http://www.wildlifetracking.org/faq.shtml] [http://www.lionconservation.org/lion-collars.html] [http://www.africat.org/projects/radio-collars-for-lions]

VR2's cost $1.5k each, tags cost $350 each. http://www.gulfcounty-fl.gov/pdf/882532513025603.pdf

1.2.3 Cost Efficiency

Technology	Tag Model	Transmit Period	Expected Lifespan	Expected Transmissions
VHF Radio Tag	Telonics FIS-040	1s	0.7 days	60,480
Satellite Tag	Telonics ST-18	60s	117 days	168,480
Acoustic Tag	Vemco VR-13	90s	1,135 days	1,089,600

Table 1.2: Lifespan & Total Expected Transmissions

Technology	Tag Model	Tag Price	Expected Transmissions	Price Per Transmission
VHF Radio Tag	Telonics FIS-040	$199	60,480	$3.29e^{-3}$
Satellite Tag	Telonics ST-18	$3000	168,480	$1.78e^{-2}$
Acoustic Tag	Vemco VR-13	$330	1,089,600	$3.03e^{-4}$

Table 1.3: Price per Transmissions

http://vemco.com/products/v7-to-v16-69khz/ http://www.wildlifetracking.org/faq.shtml http://www.telonics 18/ http://www.mrcmekong.org/assets/Publications/Catch-and-Culture/catchmar02vol7.3.pdf

1.3 State of the Art

1.3.1 Rules of Thumb for Sensor Placement

While animal tracking studies draw upon hard data to draw conclusions, the methodology for collecting this data is based upon loose rules of thumb driven by anecdotal evidence. Heupel et al's

highly cited 2006 paper distills their prior experience with animal tracking into "rules of thumb" for designing a SAON. These rules focus on generalized considerations such as avoiding areas of high noise, bathymetric obstruction, and acoustic echoing[11].

While Heupel et al's publication gives sound advice on design issues that warrant warrant consideration, the discussion of analytical methods for measuring these issues falls out of the publication's scope.

1.3.2 Metrics

1.3.2.1 Data Recovery Rate

The most common metric used in analyzing the success of animal tracking studies is the Data Recovery Rate (DRR): ($\frac{pings\_emitted}{pings\_recovered}$). While it may seem intuitive to understand data recovery rates as an indicator of the quality of the dataset, one must bear in mind the objective of the study. As illustrated in section 1.3.3, the objective of the study defines how useful a particular dataset is in addressing a research question. Therefore, Data Recovery Rate should be treated simply as a measure of how complete a particular dataset is, and how strongly it can support a claim.

1.3.2.1.1 Unique & Absoloute Data Recovery Rates When discussing recovery rates, the Absoloute Data Recovery Rate (ADRR) and Unique Data Recovery Rate (UDRR) can give insight into the qualities of a particular network design. ADRR is computed as the total number of pings that were received by all sensors in the network, divided by the total number of emitted pings. This means, that data recovery rates of more than 100% are possible.

1.3.2.2 Network Sparsity

Network Sparsity (δ) is a unit-less measure of the observational qualities of an acoustic network. This metric is useful in quickly expressing the density and intent of an acoustic network. For a list of n receivers within a SAON r_1, r_2, r_3, ... r_n, let a_i ($1 \leq i \leq n$) be the distance to receiver r_i's nearest neighbor. Then, a is the median over all a_i. d_r is given as the detection range of a sensor. Network sparsity is defined as $\frac{a}{2d_r}$.

A δ of 0 describes an array of receivers that are virtually stacked on top each other. A *delta* between 0 and 1 indicates that receivers are placed such that their detection ranges overlap (a smaller δ indicates more overlap). A δ of 1 signifies that receivers in the array are positioned such that their detection ranges are just touching but not overlapping. A δ greater than 1 indicates that the receivers are farther apart, and that there are gaps between receiver coverage areas. With this definition, it becomes obvious that Network Sparsity is a positive indicator for data fusion (section 1.3.3.1), and data resolution(section 1.3.3.1).

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1.3.2.3   Sample Size

Another important factor to consider is the number of tagged individuals within a dataset. A dataset for a single tagged individual, no matter how complete, will not offer very much support to any conclusions drawn. At the same time, a dataset for a large number of individuals, with very low data recovery rates may not provide enough individual telemetry to draw a conclusion at all.

1.3.3   Data Quality

1.3.3.1   Data Resolution

Acoustic receivers like the Vemco VR2 log detections of acoustic transmissions as a tuple of time, tag number, and transmission strength. The strength of the received transmission can be used to approximate the distance between the tag and receiver. Data from a single receiver has a fairly low certainty of the exact position (low resolution) of the transmitting tag because only a single distance can be observed. If multiple receivers are in close enough proximity to receive the same transmission, the strength of the transmission observed from several different known, fixed positions can be used to triangulate a more precise position (higher resolution). This process of combining multiple observations into a more accurate observation, known as **Data Fusion**, is useful for increasing the resolution of tagged individuals and allows for the tracking of fine movements within a three-dimensional space. This increase in resolution does however have a price. Detection of a tag by more than one receiver requires that those receivers have overlapping detection ranges. Assuming a fixed number of receivers, placing receivers closer together reduces the actual coverage area of the array. Thus, the coverage area of the array is inversely correlated with the resolution of the array. Alternatively, purchasing more receivers will achieve a higher resolution, but increases the cost of the array.

1.3.3.2   Meaningful Data

Obviously the number of sensors and the size of the research area determine Data Resolution. However, high-resolution data, while desirable, is not always critical to the study. First consider a number of receivers placed in a tight cluster.

If the target species were highly sedentary, and the receiver cluster was placed around the area where a large number of individuals were captured and tagged, then the study would very likely yield a high Data Recovery Rate, but that dataset would be of little use in determining the spatial distribution of that species, as the data would be limited to the small area in which the receiver cluster was placed. On the other hand, this dataset would be highly useful in confirming the sedentary nature of the species and defining a small home range. Additionally, data from multiple receivers could be combined to provide high-resolution telemetry for the location of an animal over

time (see section 1.3.3.1). This high-resolution telemetry could be used to infer fine-scale co-location of two individuals, giving insight into social movement behaviors such as schooling and mating.

If the target species tended to roam over a large home range, then it is likely the cluster would receive only a few pings. In this case, little data will be gathered in regards to the extent of the specie's home range, but high resolution telemetry can be gathered for a short time if the animal passes through the cluster. This might be useful in identifying particular corridors that individuals prefer.

Now consider a number of receivers placed in an array very far apart from each other over a very large spatial area. If the target species were highly sedentary, then individuals might show up on one or two receivers. If many individuals were tagged, then the dataset could describe the spatial distribution of the species over a large area. The data on particular individuals would likely be very low resolution, as detection by a single receiver only tracks proximity.

If the target species tended to roam over a large home range, then it is likely the receiver array would pick up an individual animal over a number of distant sensors. This data could be used to detect potential corridors for animal movement, establish individual home ranges, and to identify the spatial distribution of the species over a large area. Again, the telemetry for individual animals would be very low, but the detection of many individuals by a single receiver could indicate areas of interest for future research.

1.3.4   Scale of Experiments

1.3.5   Oversights

CHAPTER 2
RELATED WORK

2.1 Yuan et al - Fast Sensor Placement Algorithms for Fusion-based Target Detection

Using data fusion for enhanced range and accuracy Constrained Simulated Annealing and Optimal Placement

2.2 Poduri et al Constrained Coverage for Mobile Sensor Networks Constrained Coverage (K-Neighbor Networks vs Maximum Coverage)

Density of Deployment Influencing global network properties via local restrictions Force dispersion algorithm

2.3 Pedersen and Weng - Estimating Individual Animal Movement from Observation Networks

Movement models Observation models Network Sparsity Home Range Investigation Assumptions when simulating fish movement in state-space models Fish speed and sensor area Observable space and total study area ?Environmental factors affecting fish behavior?

2.4 Howard et al - Mobile Sensor Network Deployment using Potential Fields Potential Field Algorithm

Static Equilibrium: Optimal placement vs Run time Runtime and Results

2.5 Akbarzadeh et al - Probabilistic Sensing Model for Sensor Placement Optimization Based Signal Simulation and Attenuation (Omni Directional Sensors)

Line of Sight modeling Weighted Coverage L-BFGS, Simulated Annealing, and Covariance Matrix algorithms Here is where you discuss the related work. Use BibTex to reference related work.

CHAPTER 3
DESIGN

3.1   Program Requirements

3.1.1   Motivation

While the detriments to SAON technologies are well-known [6], [11], [12], [13], [18] there few tools/services to analytically design SAONs around them. Further, none of these tools/services are free and open-source.

3.1.1.1   Cost Efficiency

In section **??**, we discuss the costs of marine telemetry systems, noting that acoustic telemetry systems produce data at a significantly lower ($\geq$10x cheaper) cost than VHF or GPS/Satellite based technologies. In order to maintain the cost-efficiency of acoustic technology, at least 10% of the produced transmissions must be captured by the SAON's receiver array. Given the numerous (but avoidable) impediments to reception of these acoustic signals (1.3.1), the array-design process becomes critical to maintaining the cost-efficiency of SAON technologies. A free network design tool would help to maintain the cost-efficiency of SAONs by eliminating costs surrounding their design and evaluation.

3.1.1.2   Metrics

The computation of network metrics (Absoloute Recovery Rate, Unique Recovery Rate, Network Sparsity) is very labor intensive at large scale. Additionally, the process of computation may vary from experiment to experiment. An automated tool would solve both issues by providing a fast, simple, repeatable, and well-documented method for computation. Metrics from such a tool would be useful in directly comparing different network deigns.

3.1.1.3   Transparency

An open-sourced tool/service would make the design process more transparent, permitting peer-review and modification. This would provide increased confidence in the process, and increased adoption of the tool. Increased adoption would result in a larger number of efficient SAONs, leading to higher data recovery rates, better data quality, increased return-on-investment, and the ability to better address scientific-research questions.

3.1.2   Supported Workflows

3.1.2.1   Static Analysis

As mentioned in section 3.1.1.2, a primary motive for this tool was the ability to create a repeatable means of measuring the performance of a SAON. To this end, the ability to measure an existing network design is important. Users should be presented with network metrics after specifying bathymetry, receiver locations, network properties, and an animal model for a given study site.

3.1.2.2   Optimal Design

The primary motive for this tool is the ability to design optimal SAONs. Users should be presented with a network design (optimal receiver locations), and network metrics after specifying bathymetry, the number of receivers in the network, network properties, and an animal model for a given study site.

3.1.2.3   Optimal Addition

Similar to the problem of optimal design, is the problem of optimal addition: the augmentation of an already existing SAON. Users should be presented with a network design (optimal augmenting receiver locations), and network metrics after specifying bathymetry, the number of receivers to add to the network, network properties, existing receiver locations, and an animal model for a given study site.

3.2   Conceptual Model

3.2.1   Time/Space Modeling

3.2.1.1   Spatial Modeling

To model a 4-dimensional underwater environment (a 3-dimensional spatial grid of various attributes), we use a two-dimensional grid of cells (in the x and y dimensions) containing numerical values. Numerical values in those cells, combined with other user-defined values, can then be used in various shape functions to generate a third dimension (z) of values for that cell. In this way, we save significant amounts of memory by computing values for a specific three-dimensional cell on the fly, instead of storing an additional dimension of values.

3.2.1.2   Temporal Modeling

With respect to the passage of time, our model assumes that receivers are stationary throughout the entire experiment. Furthermore, the animal model does not represent animal movement over time, but the percentage of time an animal would spend in a particular cell over the entire study

period. The animal model therefore represents the tendency of an animal's movements over the expected study period rather than its particular movements in a small time period. As a result, we need not consider temporally-related phenomena.

3.2.2 Bathymetric Modeling

3.2.2.1 Bathymetric Grid

Bathymetry files are generally given as two-dimensional matrix of numerical values or a list of x,y,z values. Bathymetric files describe a three-dimensional space as a regular grid of rectangular prisms (cells) with constant length (x-dimension) and width (y-dimension), but varying negative (depth is negative) heights (z-dimension). The resolution of a bathymetric file is given by the x and y (length and width) dimensions of its cells. For example, a 50 meter Bathymetry file has cell sizes of approximately 50 meters square (although these cells are not necessarily perfectly square). Bathymetric files list beginning and ending coordinates (North/South Latitudes and East/West Longitudes), as well as the grid size (in rows and columns) in cells. With these two measurements, one can compute the degrees per cell of latitude and longitude. Thus, particular latitudes and longitudes can be converted to rows/columns, and back.

Our program works on a two-dimensional, grid-based system, taking advantage of the grid given by the user-provided bathymetric file. As stated in section 3.2.1.1, the bathymetric grid is a grid containing numerical values that describe a third dimension (depth). The exact spatial extent of this description is given by the bathymetric file. Thus, the resolution of our program's output is dictated by the resolution of the input bathymetric file.

3.2.2.2 Bathymetric Filetypes

Two highly popular file formats in Geographical Information Systems are provided by NetCDF and ArcGIS. NetCDF provides an open source file format that lists a header of metadata and a whitespace delimited matrix of numerical values. ArcGIS is a private institution that supplies many different file types, formats, and encodings for a family of GIS-related software systems. ArcGIS also supports the encoding and transcription of its proprietary formats to the NetCDF format. Due to the large number of possible format and encoding combinations in ArcGIS file formats and the ability to translate file these various formats to NetCDF, we natively support the NetCDF standard, and assume that users are capable of converting their data into the NetCDF format.

3.2.2.3 Bathymetric Resolution

Two key components of our program are the animal model and the bathymetric shadowing model. These models make decisions based upon the depth at a particular cell and the distance between

cells, data which is governed by the input bathymetry file. As stated in Section 3.2.2.1, the resolution of the program's output is dependant upon the resolution of the input bathymetry file. Obviously, higher resolution grids will offer higher resolution results; but, high-resolution bathymetric files tend to be difficult to come by. These files are often held by private agencies, or simply never released to the public. It may then seem useful to artificially increase the resolution of the simulation by dividing the input file's bathymetric cells into sub-cells of finer resolution, but doing so increases the computational size of the program without meaningfully increasing the accuracy of the results.

When subdividing cells, either the sub-cells are given the same depth as their parent cell, or the depth of a sub-cell is interpolated from surrounding cells by some smoothing function. Subdividing a cell into sub-cells with the same depth makes the assumption that all sub-cells are actually the same depth. Furthermore, this results in the animal and bathymetric shadowing models making the same depth-based decision for all sub-cells that they would for the larger parent cell, increasing the computational load (see Figure 3.1b). Subdividing a cell into sub-cells with a depth governed by a smoothing function makes the assumption that there are no impeding obstacles between neighboring cells, and that there is a smooth transition between them (see figure 3.1c). Subdividing the two cells in Figure 3.1a half (ignoring for now the y component of our grid) results in the four sub-cells with depths given by a smoothing function (Figure 3.1c) would result in the large depth change at the sheer cliff face in Figure 3.1a being smoothed into smaller changes in depth, which would allow the unobstructed transmission of acoustic signals.

Both strategies (duplicating depth and applying a smoothing function) for artificially increasing the resolution of a bathymetric file disregard the manner in which the bathymetry was originally observed. Bathymetry is almost always computed as the average observed depth at several points within a geographic area of a given size (resolution). For example, imagine a particular cell in a bathymetric grid has a steep cliff running across the middle. Assuming that the sea floor at the top and base of the cliff were perfectly flat, and one measurement was taken at the top of the cliff and one at the bottom, the cell would have a depth equal to the average of the two observed depths. This average depth would then represent the depth for that entire cell, modeling it as a perfectly flat surface. Obviously this is problematic as the true nature of the sea floor is misrepresented. This misrepresentation leads to two conflicting arguments, the first is that the application of smoothing functions or duplicating depths of already averaged data makes faulty assumptions about real-world bathymetry. On the other hand, because source bathymetric files already represent aggregate data, one could argue that any conclusions drawn from the source bathymetry files are already faulty. We argue that the conclusions one can make are only as good as the bathymetric information available. As the resolution of measured bathymetry (bathymetric measurements taken from the real world) increases (becomes finer), so too does the accuracy of the simulation. While artificially increasing the resolution of a source bathymetric file may skew results, it is sometimes useful for meshing two

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bathymetric source files of varying resolution into one larger bathymetric dataset. Our program does not currently support modifying the resolution of source bathymetric files.

3.2.2.4   Bathymetric Shadowing

In the real world, the transmission of an acoustic ping originates from the tagged animal and propagates to the receiver. This propagation is governed by complex interactions with the surrounding environment (including the bottom substrate, water density, distance to the surface/sea-floor, thermoclines, the number of tagged animals in the vicinity, and ambient noise). Because it is difficult to model these phenomena without significant data on a large number of variables over a large area, our simulation uses a simplified propagation model relying on direct line of sight between a tagged animal and a receiver. Simply put, in order to receive a transmission, there must exist a physically-unobstructed path between a tagged animal and a receiver.

3.2.3   Animal Modeling

3.2.3.1   Behavior Grid

Animals exhibit many different movement patterns and habitat preferences (both of which can vary in three-dimensional space). This greatly affects their distribution within the study space, and thus the network configuration that should be deployed to capture their movement. To describe the distribution of transmissions released from tagged animals, we utilize a two dimensional grid of the same dimensions and resolution as the Bathymetry Grid (Section 3.2.2.1). Each cell in this "Behavior Grid" contains a positive real value indicating, out of all transmissions that will be released over the entire experiment period, the percentage of transmissions that are expected to be released from within that cell's water column. This value can loosely be though of as the "animal-residency" of a cell since we are effectively measuring the number of animal-hours spent in that cell.

To populate this 2D grid with values, we provide two behavioral models to simulate the horizontal distribution of animals, and two optional models for the vertical distribution. Note: we use the terms "animal" and "transmission" interchangeably as we are interested in capturing acoustic transmissions, which are given off by the tags carried by the target species.

3.2.3.2   Animal Movement Modeling

To simulate tagged animal movement across the two dimensional x/y space (as one would expect to see on a map from above), we provide two basic probabilistic movement models: Random Walk, and Ornstein-Uhlenbeck(OU).

3.2.3.2.1   Random Walk Model   The Random Walk model assumes that animals move randomly through the environment. As a result, over the entire study period, each valid grid cell (as defined by the Restricted Vertical Habitat Range (Section 3.2.3.4)) will see an equal amount of animal traffic. The result is that every valid cell in the grid will have the same chance of capturing an animal's acoustic transmission. We assume that tagged individuals will be willing and able to very briefly (in probabilistically negligible time frames) pass through inhospitable (over dry land, through impassable terrain) cells to get to other cells. This means that disjoint sections of habitat are still equally likely to see animal presence.

3.2.3.2.2   Ornstein-Uhlenbeck Model   The Ornstein-Uhlenbeck(OU) model[14] supports the idea that over time, animals will tend to congregate near certain points of interest. This concept models an animal's desire to seek out and remain near a physically significant structure, a region of high food availability, breeding grounds, shelter, etc. The OU algorithm allows for the modeling of the attraction towards a focal point in the x/y directions separately. Assuming a center point at the origin of a Cartesian grid, increasing the attraction in the x-direction will bring the distribution closer to the x-axis, and decreasing it will spread the distribution away from the x-axis. A correlation value ($-1 \leq x \leq 1$) allows for tilting the angle of the distribution. A positive correlation value tilts the distribution clockwise, and a negative correlation value tilts it counter clockwise. Correlations of 0 (no tilt), 1 (180° tilt), and -1 (-180° tilt) will have no observable effect on the distribution.

3.2.3.3   Habitat Preference

Some animals exhibit the preference to reside within a specific section of the water column; for example, prey animals may prefer hiding in reef heads at the bottom of the water column, while predators will prefer to hover several meters off the bottom. This preference can be incorporated into the animal model by specifying mean (preferred Depth") and standard deviation("SD of Preferred Depth") values. These values are given as a measure of the distance (in meters) from the bottom. For example, specifying a depth of '0' for Preferred Depth indicates that the animal prefers to live on the sea floor, while a value of '5' indicates that the animal prefers to live 5m off the sea floor. Allowing a standard deviation value allows for the modeling of animals that tend to be sedentary within the water column (a small deviation), and those that migrate through the water column (a large deviation). Currently, the simulation does not support the modeling of sub-surface animals, and any part of the distribution curve falling below the sea floor will be redistributed along the rest of the curve.

3.2.3.4   Restricted Vertical Habitat Range

Some animals will live only in a specific depth range. For example, a deep sea fish may live only in depths of 300-400 meters. To incorporate this into the behavioral model, users can specify

a minimum and maximum vertical habitat range for their animal. If this option is selected, the program will only simulate animals in cells whose maximum depths are between the given minimum and maximum depths. As in the Random Walk Model, we assume that animals are willing and able to move between disjoint areas of habitat.

3.2.4   Receiver Modeling

3.2.4.1   Acoustic Attenuation

As acoustic transmissions travel away from their point of origin, they experience significant attenuation. We model this attenuation of acoustic signal as a deteriorating function following a Gaussian distribution. Given a particular distance between a tag and receiver, this distribution describes the probability of capturing the transmission. Depending upon the environment, the highest probability of detection generally occurs a few meters away from the receiver.

3.2.4.2   Detection Range

The distance at which a transmission from an acoustic tag can be captured is largely determined by the transmission power of the acoustic tag. In our model, we assume that all animals have the same model of acoustic tag, and that "transmission range" is instead a property of the receiver referred to as "Detection Range" (D_{range}). We define the Detection Range of a receiver to be the average distance (specific to the given study site) at which the probability of detection drops to 5%.

3.2.4.3   Detection Area

We define the Detection Area of a receiver to be the square plane of grid cells around a receiver which will be considered when evaluating a potential receiver emplacement. Theoretically, the Detection Area of a receiver is a circle with a radius equal to the receiver's Detection Range (D_{range}). Within our program, we model the Detection Area as a square grid of cells with an edge length equal to $2*D_{range} + 1$, centered on the cell where a receiver will theoretically be placed. The additional cell ensures odd dimensions for the square, so that there exists a central cell to model as the receiver. We model a square instead of a circle for simplicity of book keeping (we simply keep track of the Detection Range, and starting row/column indexes). The theoretical Detection Range can then be imagined as a circle circumscribed in the square of our model. At first glance, it might seem that this simplification would alter the probabilistic distribution models as additional "gray" cells (those outside the circle but within the square) are being considered. However, this is not the case as those models utilize exponential functions based on the absolute distance from the receiver. Gray cells will therefore contribute exponentially less to the total probability than those cells within the Detection Range, and their effect on the final probability will be negligible.

3.2.4.4 Network Specification

There are three distinct ways to place receivers into the model: user specification, optimal placement, and optimal projection. User Specified Receivers (USR) represent receivers that are already deployed at the study site and are being integrated into a larger network. Program Placed Receivers are receivers that will be optimally placed by the program, taking into account existing (user specified) receivers placements using the suppression dynamic explained in section 3.4. Projected Sensors are PPSs that do not count towards the network statistic rates returned by the program. Instead, their contributed recovery rates are given separately, and represent the marginal benefits of incrementally placing more receivers.

3.3 Evaluation Algorithms

3.3.1 Evaluation of Receiver Emplacements

TODO needs work Section 3.2.3 discusses the models used to simulate animal movement. These animal models populate the "Behavior Grid", a 2D grid (of the same size as the specified bathymetry grid) which gives the distribution of animals across the study area, and a shape function which describes a normal distribution of animals within the water column at various depths. Section 3.1a discusses the Line of Sight (LoS) model used to simulate the obstruction of acoustic transmission. Section3.2.4 discusses how attenuation affects the propagation of acoustic signals and thus the probability of detecting (P_{range}) acoustic transmissions from a distance. Together, these models are used to evaluate receiver locations throughout the study site.

3.3.2 Goodness Grid

In modeling our 3D environment (the study site), we make extensive use of 2D grids with a third dimension. However, we assume all receivers in the study will have the same elevation off the sea floor. Recall that our program will evaluate every cell in the Bathymetry Grid as a potential receiver emplacement. Together with the assumption of fixed receiver elevation, the search space considered by our program is a 2D surface parallel to the sea floor. Thus, it makes sense to store the evaluation metric for this search space in a 2D grid with the same dimensions and resolution as the Bathymetry Grid. This gird is referred to as the "Goodness Grid" (G).

3.3.3 Evaluation Algorithms (Bias)

The Evaluation or Goodness algorithm is the driving force behind the evaluation of sensor placements. Given a particular cell at row i and column j, an Evaluation Algorithm will compute a non-negative, rational value representing how much data a receiver placed d meters off the bottom of cell (i,j) would recover, according to the particular bias of a given evaluation algorithm. These

values are computed for all cells within the Bathymetry Grid, and stored in the Goodness Grid. $G_{i,j}$ refers to the goodness value of the cell at row i, column j on the Goodness Grid(G).

While users are able to write their own Goodness algorithms, three basic algorithms are provided. All Evaluation Algorithms compute the goodness of a potential receiver location ($G_{i,j}$) by summing the number of Estimated Receivable Transmissions (ERT) from all cells within Detection Range of $G_{i,j}$. Each algorithm has a particular bias in its approach to computing ERT. Note: we utilize the terms "bias" and "algorithm" interchangeably when referring to "Evaluation Algorithms".

Explicitly, $G_{i,j} = \Sigma_{i=i_0}^{i_n} \Sigma_{j=j_0}^{j_n} ERT(x, i, j)$, where x is the chosen Evaluation Algorithm/Bias, i_0 and j_0 represent starting row/column indexes (respectively) for the Detection Area, and i_n and j_n represent ending row/column indexes (respectively) for the Detection Area.

3.3.3.1 Animal Only (Option 1)

This option prefers to place sensors in areas of high animal activity, completely oblivious to the surrounding bathymetry. This is useful for when no bathymetric information is available or when animal activity occurs well above the sea floor. The "Animal Only" option computes ERT for a cell as the animal-residency of a cell (according to the Behavior Grid), multiplied by the probability of detection due to attenuation for that cell's distance from the receiver.

Explicitly, $ERT_{1,i,j} = B_{i,j} * P_{Attenuation}(Range(i, j))$

3.3.3.2 Visible Fish (Option 3)

This option chooses sensor locations that have the best view of areas of high animal residency. Both animal presence and visibility due to topography are considered. This option is most useful when both well-documented animal behavior and high resolution bathymetry are available. ERT is computed as animal-residency (according to the Behavior Grid), multiplied by the percentage of visible fish (given either as a simple percentage of the visible water column, or by integration over the shape function described in by Habitat Preference), multiplied by the probability of detection due to attenuation. Figure **??** depicts this operation.

Explicitly, $ERT_{3,i,j} = B_{i,j} * P_{observation} * P_{Attenuation}(Range(i, j))$

3.3.3.3 Topography Only (Option 2)

This option places sensors in areas that have the best visibility of the surrounding area, regardless of the expected animal-residency. This is useful for experiments where animal habitat is unknown or to be determined. Here, ERT is computed as the number of observable transmissions from a uniformly distributed animal model. While this algorithm is referred to as "Topography Only", we

implement this by using the "Visible Fish" algorithm with a simplified animal model. Specifically, we assume that animals are uniformly distributed throughout the environment. Because animals are uniformly distributed, the more volume a receiver can see, the more transmissions it will receive. Thus, the algorithm will value cells with the best possible view of the surrounding water columns. Explicitly, $ERT_{2,i,j} = B_{i,j} * P_{observation} * P_{Attenuation}(Range(i,j))$

Note: With this option, B is initially described as a uniform distribution.

3.3.4 Selection of Optimal Emplacements

Section **??** describes the evaluation of cells as potential receiver locations. The Optimal Design and Optimal Addition work flows (section 3.1.2) require the identification and selection of a user-specified number of receiver emplacements. Once all cells within the area of interest have been evaluated, the program simply selects the highest rated cells. The program first selects the user-specified number of optimal receiver locations, and then the number of specified projected receivers.

3.4 Suppression

As previously mentioned, the optimality of a network depends greatly upon the way in which data quality is defined. Some users will want to design a network that covers as much of a study area as possible, while others might want to heavily saturate a small area with sensors to facilitate higher resolution data. Others may wish to find the receiver locations that return the highest number of unique data points. Also previously mentioned was the metric of Unique Data Recovery Rate (UDRR) and Absoloute Data Recovery Rate (ADRR) [Section 1.3.2.1]. This model reflects the idea that the UDRR is more important than the ADRR, as transmissions received by one sensor are no longer desirable to any other sensor.

3.4.1 Suppression Area

As an input to the program, users can specify a Suppression Range Factor as a positive real number. This factor is used to scale the Detection Range (Section **??**) and define a grid similar to the Detection Area (Section **??**). The resulting grid is referred to as the Suppression Area. The Suppression Area is centered over a receiver placement and cells within this area have their number of undetected transmissions reduced according to a Suppression Algorithm. The suppression mechanic is used during the selection phase of the program. After selecting each optimal receiver location (Section 3.3.4), the Suppression Area around that receiver location is suppressed. The result of this mechanic is that emplacement selection is a sequential process, where selecting each emplacement depends upon the previous selection.

3.4.2 Suppression Algorithms

To promote the flexibility of our program, we provide users two algorithms for suppression. The first offers a lower computation time at the cost of divergence from our theoretical model. The second offers a higher fidelity model, but requires significantly more computation.

3.4.2.1 Static Suppression

The Static Suppression algorithm takes a "cookie-cutter" approach and reduces the number of undetected transmissions in the Suppression Area by a user-specified factor. All cells within the Suppression Area are multiplied by a user-specified non-zero real number. This computation is very simplistic, requiring only a scalar multiplication, and as such runs very quickly. This is useful for simulations that intend to place a very large number of receivers. The cost of this speed is that the algorithm ignores the attenuation and line of sight models completely. For instance, a cell that is very far away from the receiver, and whose line of sight to the receiver is obstructed will be reduced by the same factor as a cell with unobstructed line of sight, near the receiver. Obviously this is not a faithful representation of the conceptual models discussed earlier, but supplied as a computationally-simple alternative.

3.4.2.2 Exact Suppression

The primary purpose of this algorithm was to discount exactly those transmissions which are likely to be observed by a placed receiver. This algorithm uses the ERT given by the evaluation algorithms (the user-specified evaluation algorithm is used in both goodness calculation and Exact Suppression) to determine the number of transmissions to discount a cell by. $ERT_{A,i,j}$ denotes the ERT in cell (i,j) observed from cell A. Exact Suppression works first by computing $ERT_{A,i,j}$ for all cells (i,j) within the Detection Area. Then, each corresponding cell in the Behavior Grid, $B_{i,j}$, is reduced by $ERT_{A,i,j}$. Finally, the goodness of all cells within Detection Range of a suppressed cell (all those that would have their goodness affected by the reduction) is recalculated. Figure **??** illustrates the Exact suppression algorithm.

3.5 Optimal Sensor Projection

In normal research situations, users will have a set number of receivers to place within their study site. The process of arriving at this number is likely unscientific, perhaps relying on user estimate (such as the user-perceived feasibility of receiving a given number of receivers). Rather than guessing at the number of receivers to use, and hoping for an adequate data recovery rate, users should be able to calculate the marginal benefit (additional detections, increased Data Recovery Rates) of utilizing a variable number of receivers. To this end, the program allows for the projected incremental benefit

for a given number of additional receivers. Our program facilitates this by allowing users to specify a number of receivers to project, returning graphs and metrics of the marginal increase in Data Recovery Rate. Armed with this data, users can determine an appropriate number of receivers to purchase, or construct an argument for purchasing more receivers.

3.6 Outputs

Our program outputs 5 files: 1) The Bathymetry Grid as a heat map 2) The Behavior Grid as a heat map 3) The Goodness Grid as a heat map 4) The Coverage Grid as a heat map 5) The marginal gain in Unique Recovery Rate as a function of the number of sensors placed 5) TODO discuss output discuss ray tracing image

3.6.1 Time and Space Complexity

To compare the temporal and spatial complexities of various elements of our program, we define the following variable inputs to the program:

n - The square root of the number of cells in the Bathymetry Grid.

r - The detection radius. Also the square root of the number of cells in the Detection Grid.

k - The number of optimal placements to find.

3.6.1.1 Bathymetry Grid

The bathymetry data for the study site is provided as a grid of n^2 cells. This data must be copied into local memory (RAM), which takes O(1) time to copy, and O(1) space to hold. Thus, the creation of the Bathymetry Grid will take O(1) * n^2 = O(n^2) time and space..

3.6.1.2 Behavior Grid

Animal residency is computed as a function of the depth of a particular cell (Restricted Vertical Habitat), and the cell's location (OU/RW modeling). While these functions are non-linear, the computation time for each cell is constant [O(1)]. So is the space required to store a single residency value for each of n^2 cells. Therefore, the initialization of the Behavior Grid is O(1) * n^2 = O(n^2).

3.6.1.3 Line of Sight Computation

A naive solution might be to determine whether or not each cell in the three-dimensional grid can see the receiver. Given that the volume of a sphere is $\frac{4/3}{\pi}r^3$, this solution would need to consider O(r^3) cells. Recall however, that we are using a 2-dimensional grid as the basis of our simulation and computing the third dimension as necessary by using a shape function. Therefore, it is much

more computationally efficient to determine the deepest depth in each cell that can be seen by the receiver, and then use integration to compute the probability of detecting transmissions within the water column above that cell (P_d) . This leads us to the problem of finding the greatest depth (in each 2D cell) which is visible from the receiver. We compute this via incremental ray tracing which can $O(r)$ time for $O(r^2)$ cells [6]. Then, using integration over the shape function, and known min/max depths, the total (P_d) can be computed in $O(r^2)$ time. Finally, we determine an average(P_d) over all $O(r^2)$ cells within Detection Range. This metric is used to evaluate each cell within the study area as a candidate for receiver placement. Thus, our method for evaluating a 3D space can be done in $O(r^2 + r^2 + r^2) = O(r^2)$ time. One notable difference between our method and the naive method is that the naive method computes the sum probability of detection for each cell in the 3D space, where our method simply integrates to find the probability of detection for the entire a column of water.
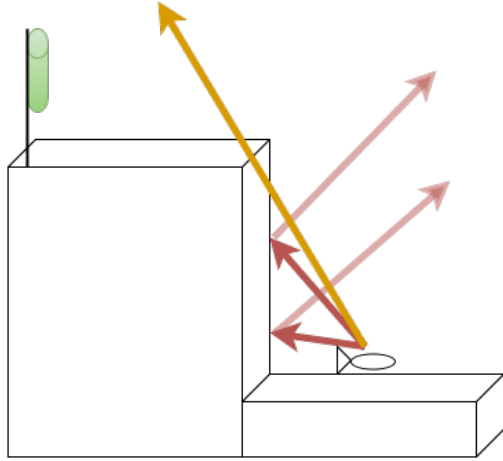
3.6.1.4   Goodness Grid

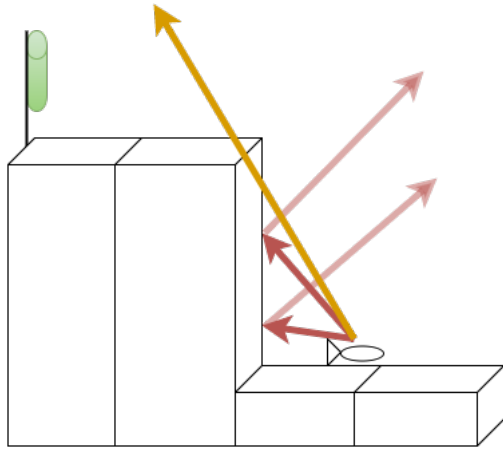### 3.6.1.4.1   Evaluation Algorithm 1

3.6.1.4.2   Evaluation Algorithm 2 & 3

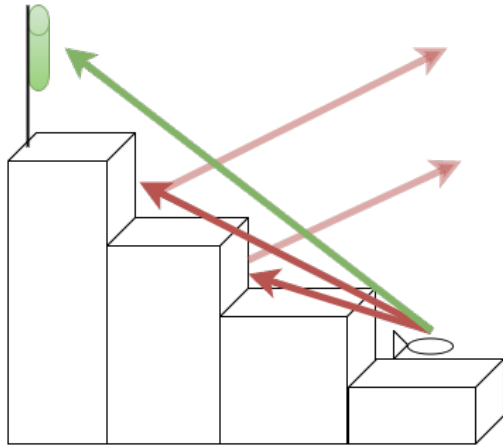### 3.6.1.5   Receiver Location Selection

3.6.1.6   Suppression

(a)

(b)

(c)

Figure 3.1: Figure 3.1a illustrates the bathymetric shadowing model for two adjacent cells within a bathymetric grid. Figure 3.1b shows how artifically increasing the resolution of the bathymetric grid form Figure 3.1a using the duplication method of cell sub-division does not affect the bathymetric shadowing model. Figure 3.1c shows how artificially increasing the resolution using a smoothing function can lead to inflated signal reception.
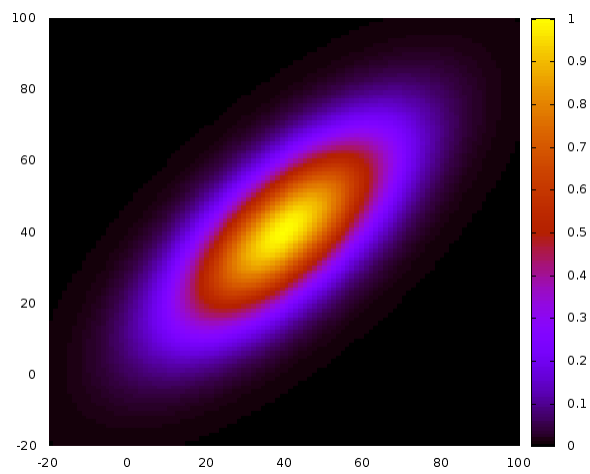
Figure 3.2

Figure 3.3: An example of a distribution given by the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck Model with a high attraction value in the x-direction, a low attraction value in the y-direction, and a correlation value of 0.7.
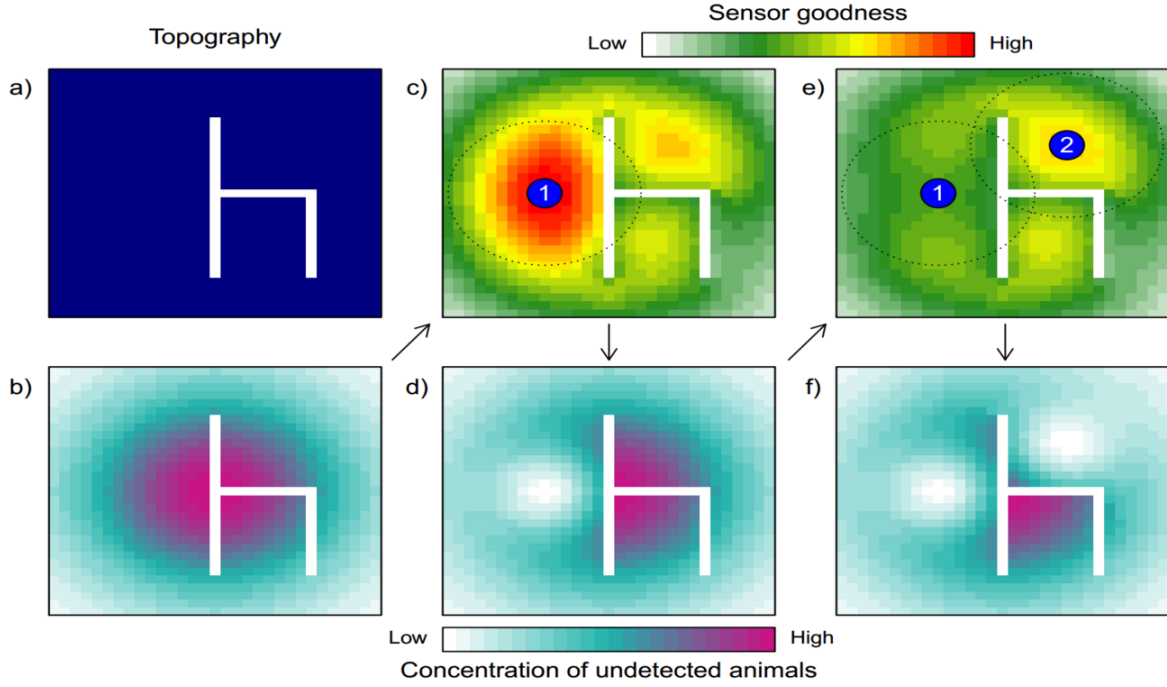
Figure 3.4: An illustration of the Exact Suppression Algorithm. In (a), we see a bathymetry grid with infinitely high walls (the white 'h' shape) on an otherwise flat plane (blue region). In (b), we see Behavior Grid with a distribution (given by the OU movement model) of animals around the walls. (c) shows the computed goodness of Sensor (receiver) locations within the study site. The program first identifies location 1 (the blue circle) as having the highest unique data recovery rate, and places a sensor there. The dotted lines represent the receiver's Detection Range. In (d), the program suppresses the Behavior Grid by subtracting the ERT of each cell within Suppression Range. Here the Suppression Range Factor is 1.0, so the Suppression Area is the same as the Detection Area). In (e), the goodness grid is recalculated, taking into account the suppressed Behavior Grid. Additionally, the program identifies location 2 as having the highest Unique Data Recovery Rate. In (f), the Behavior Grid is again suppressed to account for the placement of sensor (2).
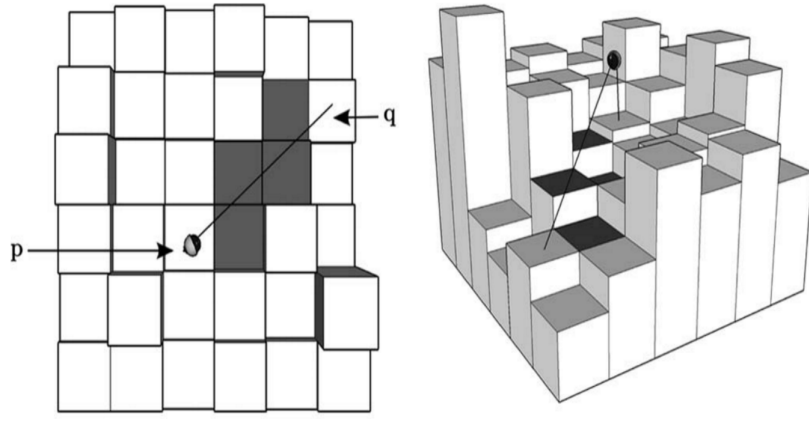
Figure 3.5: An illustration of how ray tracing works within a 3D environment. [6]
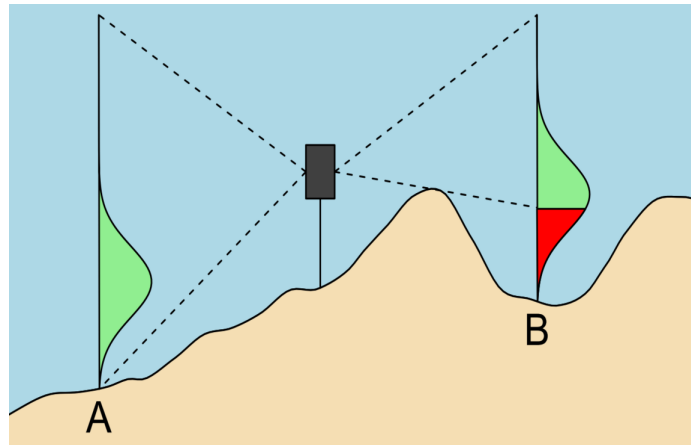

Figure 3.6: An illustration of how ray tracing and integration over a shape function can be used to compute the probability of detecting fish within a cell. Dotted lines indicate the maximum and minimum depths visible to the receiver. The normal distributions in green/red indicate the distribution of fish within a given cell as determined by a shape function. The green portion of the distribution indicates the portion of the distribution that is observable by the receiver and the red indicates the portion that is unobservable by the receiver. The observable distribution (green) is computed by integration over the shape function.

CHAPTER 4
RESULTS

Here is where you discuss the results from your evaluation.

CHAPTER 5
CONCLUSIONS

Here is where you discuss your conclusions and future directions.

APPENDIX A
TABLE OF NOTATIONS

A - Bathymetry Grid - A 2D grid of real numbers that describe the depth of a section of the sea floor. $A_{i,j}$ refers to a particular value in the cell at row i, column j.

B - Behavior Grid - A 2D grid of real numbers that indicate the percentage of all transmissions that are expected to be released from that cell over the entire experiment. $B_{i,j}$ refers to a particular value in the cell at row i, column j.

G - Goodness Grid - A 2D grid with the same dimensions as the Bathymetry Grid. Contains real numbers that indicate how good a particular cell will serve as a receiver placement. $G_{i,j}$ refers to a particular value in the cell at row i, column j.

$ERT_{x,A,i,j}$ - Estimated Receivable Transmissions - The number of transmissions that are expected to be received from a cell at row i, column j, relative to a receiver at cell A, according to Evaluation Algorithm x.

$P_{Attenuation}(x)$ - Probability of Detection due to attenuation - Describes the probability of detecting an acoustic transmission originating at a range of x meters away from a receiver.

$Range(i,j)$ - Distance from receiver to i,j - Distance from a particular receiver location to the cell at row i, column j.

APPENDIX B
MORENRE ANCILLARY STUFF

Subsequent chapters are labeled with letters of the alphabet.

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