

Camera trap distance sampling workshop 21-25 March 2022

Source: https://unsplash.com/@satyadeep_d

Solution

Detection function modelling and selection of the most appropriate detection function model is now complete. We will use the chosen model to estimate density from the camera trap data set of Maxwell's duikers. However, before producing the density estimates, there are two adjustments to be made. Those adjustments are called *multipliers* and one multiplier is a known constant, while the second multiplier must be estimated and therefore contains uncertainty that must be propagated into our density estimates.

1 Add more statistics to the *Project Browser*

With our interest now turned to the estimation of duiker density, we could expose more statistics in the *Project Browser*. However, given our focus will be upon a single analysis, we could omit this step.

2 Field of view multiplier

Examine the data sheet (Fig. 1). Looking only at the global layer, we see a field labelled *Sampling fraction*. This is the proportion of a circle within the field of view of the cameras used in the duiker study. It is a constant, measured without uncertainty.

Data layers		Contents of Global layer 'Study area'					
		ID	Label	Sampling fraction	Activity	Activity SE	Activity dI
	Study area	n/a	n/a	[None]	[None]	[None]	[None]
	Sampled Bootstraps	Int	Int	Int	Int	Int	Int
	Region						
	Camera trap						
	Observation						

Figure 1: Multipliers in the global data layer.

3 Temporal activity multiplier

The other multiplier is the proportion of time animals are active while the cameras are in operation. Cameras operate for 11.5 hours (0630 - 1800) during the field operation (Howe et al., 2017). Not all animals were active and capable of triggering the cameras during those hours of the day.

Methods developed by Rowcliffe et al. (2014) and implemented in Rowcliffe (2021) determine the proportion of time animals are active based upon the camera triggering events. From Fig. 1, you can see this proportion is estimated to be roughly 0.65. This is an estimate, based upon the sampling performed by the camera and modelled by Rowcliffe (2021). Consequently there is uncertainty in this quantity, reflected by the standard error reported in the global data layer of 0.047.

3.1 Computation of temporal activity multiplier

As noted above, the estimate of the temporal activity multiplier is derived from an R package Rowcliffe (2021). This is where the estimate of 0.65 and its standard error of 0.047 were derived.

We will leave these values as they are for the moment, later in this practical we will use an interface to Rowcliffe (2021) for an alternative way to compute uncertainty in the temporal activity multiplier. You will also want experience using the interface to Rowcliffe (2021) with your own data.

4 Inclusion of multipliers in density estimates

Just because multipliers have been supplied in the data sheet, they are not necessarily incorporated in the analyses. We must check the *Multipliers* tab associated with our analyses (Fig. 2). From this figure, note that both multipliers have been included in the analysis.

5 Produce a density estimate with multipliers

Now that all the set-up has been done, examine the analysis using your preferred model with both multipliers implemented to estimate duiker density and note the uncertainty in the estimate.

Layer type containing multiplier	Field containing multiplier value	Field containing multiplier SE (optional)	Field containing multiplier DF (optional)	Operator	Cue rate
Global	Activity	Activity SE	Activity df	/	<input type="checkbox"/>
Global	Sampling			/	<input type="checkbox"/>

Operator
Operator '*' means
Final density estimate = Density estimate * Multiplier value
Operator '/' means
Final density estimate = Density estimate * (1 / Multiplier value)
Cue rate
For cue count surveys, you should enter the cue rate field as a multiplier and tick the 'Cue rate' box in this row.

Figure 2: Multipliers in the global data layer.

6 Interface to Rowcliffe (2021) software

The activity pattern analysis software (Rowcliffe, 2021) is an R package. We have developed a way of using this software without the need to know the R language. By opening a browser to this address

<https://lenthomas.shinyapps.io/Activity/>

Temporal Availability Calculations for Analysis of Camera Trap Data

Introduction

This app helps calculate the activity multiplier for camera trap distance sampling analyses in Distance for Windows. Please follow the steps below to find standard error and if required bootstrap resamples.

Data Requirements

The data used in this shiny app should constitute independent videos of animal activity. So if the recorder was triggered multiple times during a single animal's visit, each video needs to be included in the dataset. Note it is possible to include all the videos in the dataset imported into Distance for Windows.

App Instructions

Figure 3: Opening tab of online application.

you will be able to upload your camera triggering data and analyse them to estimate the proportion of time animals are active. Extensive instructions about the application are found when the application opens (Fig. 3).

6.1 Input data into Shiny

order	folder	vid.no	ek.no	easting	northing	month	day	hour	minute	date
1	A3(1)	34	1	10	689007	644158	7	7	6	30 2016/07/07
2	C3(3)	299	31	49	690995	644190	8	5	6	30 2016/08/05
3	C6(2)	428	29	53	690977	641224	8	13	6	30 2016/08/13
4	C3(3)	291	23	40	690995	644190	8	3	6	31 2016/08/03
5	C3(3)	327	59	83	690995	644190	8	14	6	31 2016/08/14
6	C6(2)	429	30	54	690977	641224	8	13	6	31 2016/08/13

Figure 4: Data input tab of online application.

Upload a data file from your local computer to the cloud-based application (Fig. 4). The file can contain any number of fields as long as the time of camera triggerings are within the file. For this practical, use the comma-delimited value file `actdata.csv` found in the Practical 5 folder of our Teams web site.

6.2 Create bootstraps

Please specify the column in your data containing the time or date-time information and then select the appropriate format describing this column. Note that times must be in 24 hours clock format, i.e. 13:45 rather than 1:45 PM.

Time of day variable name:

datetime

Date time format

yyyy/mm/dd HH:MM

The bandwidth adjustment multiplier is provided to allow exploration of the effect of adjusting the internally calculated bandwidth on accuracy of activity level estimates.

Bandwidth:

1.5

Replicates:

500

Run Fit Activity

Figure 5: Temporal availability calculation tab of online application.

Uncertainty in the temporal availability multiplier is estimate by resampling the camera triggering times. The smoothness of the kernel density model can be adjusted using the bandwidth argument (Fig. 5). Simulations by Rowcliffe et al. (2014) suggests best performance with bandwidth of 1.5. Further details regarding calculation of the temporal availability multiplier can be found in Rowcliffe (2021). Create 500 replicates in this step for later use.

6.3 Adjust for camera hours of operation

Temporal Availability Calculations for Analysis of Camera Trap Data

Introduction Data Analysis Activity and Bootstrap Values

We need to perform an adjustment to obtain the activity multipliers we need to include in our distance sampling analyses. We will now scale the activity values in proportion to the number of hours the camera was operating out of a 24 hour period. Please supply the average number of hours for which the camera was recording in a 24 hour interval.

Operational camera hours out of 24 hours:

11.5

Proportion of day cameras were recording: 0.4791667

Scaled activity rate and SE

The activity rate and standard error displayed below can be recorded and manually entered into the appropriate fields of the global data layer of your Distance project.

Activity rate multiplier: 0.6156322

Activity rate standard error (SE): 0.04375673

Figure 6: Camera hour adjustment tab, with download button (not shown) at the bottom of this tab of the app.

The temporal availability computations operate under the assumption that the cameras operate 24 hours per day. If that is true for your study, no adjustment is necessary. For the study described in Howe et al. (2017), cameras were operational for 11.5 hours per day. This adjustment is implemented in Fig. 6. After adjustment, the bootstrap replicates created by Rowcliffe (2021) can be downloaded from the cloud-based app to your local computer.

6.4 Download bootstraps and import into Distance for Windows

After downloading the file of bootstrap replicate estimates of the temporal availability multiplier, these replicates can be imported into Distance for Windows using the *Import Data Wizard*. Uncertainty in the density estimates can then include bootstrap estimates of temporal availability multiplier, rather than analytical estimates of multiplier uncertainty shown at the bottom of Fig. 6. Importing a file into Distance for Win-

dows is described in the users guide for that software. With the temporal availability multiplier, the file of bootstrap replicates is imported into the Multiplier Bootstrap layer (Fig. 7).

Both the layer and the field name must be specified before the input can take place (Fig. 8).

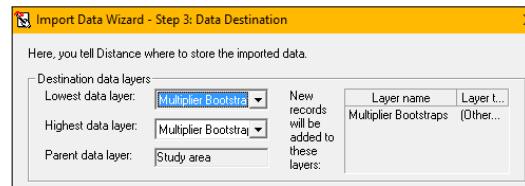


Figure 7: Specifying the data layer into which the bootstrap replicate file will be imported.

Once the bootstrap replicates have been imported, they will not be used in the uncertainty of density estimates until Distance for Windows is instructed to use bootstrap rather than analytical means of estimating multiplier uncertainty. This dialogue takes place in the Variance tab shown in Fig. 9.

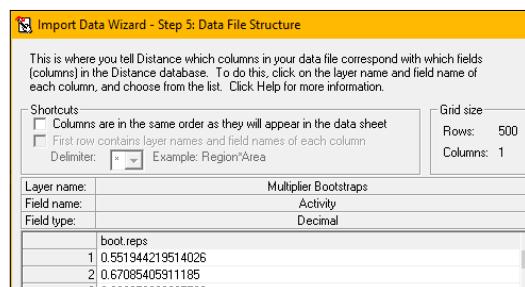


Figure 8: Associating the bootstrap replicate file with the proper field and data layer.

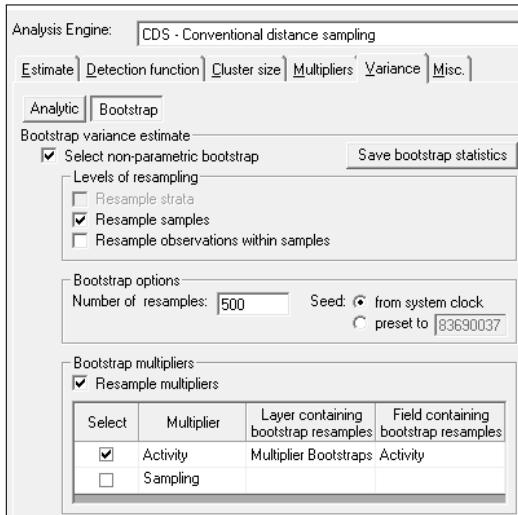


Figure 9: Instructing Distance for Windows to resample the imported bootstrap replicates to estimate uncertainty in temporal availability multiplier.

By selecting the non-parameteric bootstrap (topmost check box, Fig. 9), the camera stations will be resampled with replacement (second-top check box, Fig. 9) to refit the detection function and estimate the encounter rate variance. The third and fourth check boxes of Fig. 9 ensure that the replicate estimates of the activity multiplier are also used to compute uncertainty in the density estimate. Note the number of replicates requested here **must match** the number of bootstrap replicates created with the Shiny app. If the last two check boxes of Fig. 9 are not ticked, the activity multiplier will be assumed constant and uncertainty in the multiplier will not be propagated through to uncertainty in the density estimate.

Availability	\hat{D}	cv	95% CI
Daytime	10.6	0.27	6.1 – 18.3
Peak activity	14.5	0.30	7.8 – 26.9
Active daytime	16.5	0.27	9.5 – 28.6

Figure 10: Density estimates from Howe et al. (2017). Incorporating both multipliers would make your estimate comparable to that labelled *Active daytime*.

7 Questions about this analysis

- How does the estimate of density and its precision compare with the results presented in Howe et al. (2017) (Fig. 10)?

Model selection choices

Howe et al. (2017) used the hazard rate key function without adjustments as basis for inference. Because we used a different candidate model set (and enhanced the computation of the activity multiplier), our density estimate of $18.4 \text{ duikers} \cdot \text{hectare}^{-1}$ differs from the published estimate of $16.5 \text{ duikers} \cdot \text{hectare}^{-1}$. The coefficients of variation for the two density estimates are very similar (0.28 in this analysis, 0.27 in the published study).

- What is the consequence of using bootstrap estimates of uncertainty compared to analytical measures of uncertainty?

Differences in confidence interval bounds on \hat{D}

Confidence interval bounds widen from (10.4, 32.5) analytical to (8.4, 38.8) bootstrap. Your bootstrap confidence interval bounds will differ from these because of the stochasticity of the bootstrap.

References

- Howe, Eric J., Stephen T. Buckland, Marie-Lyne Després-Einspenner, and Hjalmar S. Kühl (2017). "Distance sampling with camera traps". In: *Methods in Ecology and Evolution* 8.11, pp. 1558–1565. DOI: 10.1111/2041-210X.12790.
- Rowcliffe, J. Marcus (2021). *activity: Animal Activity Statistics*. R package version 1.3.1. URL: <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=activity>.
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