

foieGras an R package for rapid quality control, behavioural estimation and simulation of animal track data

Ian D. Jonsen^{1,*}, Toby A. Patterson², and ²

¹Department of Biological Sciences, Macquarie University, Sydney, NSW, Australia

²CSIRO Ocean and Atmosphere Research, Hobart, TAS, Australia

*Corresponding author. Email: ian.jonsen@mq.edu.au

Abstract

text...

1 | Introduction

The R package `foieGras`, pronounced “*fwah grah*”, ...

2 | foieGras Overview

The workflow for `foieGras` is deliberately simple, with much of the usual track data processing checks and formatting handled automatically. The main functions are listed in Table 1. When fitting a model, `foieGras` automatically detects the type of tracking data location quality classes designations that are typical of Argos data and that can be added to the data by the researcher for other types of track data. Based on the location quality classes and other, optional information on observation errors contained in the data, `foieGras` chooses an appropriate observation error model for each observation. This capability allows for combinations of different tracking data types, e.g., Argos and GPS, in a single input data frame and to be fit in a single state-space model.

2.1 | Data preparation

Animal tracking data, consisting of a time-series of location coordinates, can be read into R as a data frame using standard functions such as `read.csv`. The canonical data format for Argos tracks consists of a data frame with 5 columns corresponding to the following named variables: `id` (individual id), `date` (date and time), `lc` (location class), `lon` (longitude), `lat` (latitude). Optionally, an additional 3 columns, `smaj` (semi-major axis), `smin` (semi-minor axis), `eor` (ellipse orientation), providing Argos error ellipse information may be included.

Other types of track data can be accommodated, for example, by including the `lc` column where all `lc = "G"` for GPS data. In this case, measurement error in the GPS locations is assumed to have a standard deviation of 0.1 x Argos class 3 locations (approximately 30 m). Other types of track data can be considered in a similar manner (see the package vignette for further details).

Table 1: Main functions for the R package `foieGras`

Function	Description
<code>fit_mpm</code>	Fit a Move Persistence Model to location data
<code>fit_ssm</code>	Fit a State-Space Model to location data
<code>fmap</code>	Plot fitted/predicted locations on a map with or without a defined projection
<code>grab</code>	Extract fitted/predicted/observed locations from a <code>foieGras</code> model, with or without projection information
<code>osar</code>	Estimate One-Step-Ahead Residuals from a <code>foieGras</code> SSM
<code>plot.fG_mpm</code>	Plot move persistence estimates as 1-D or 2-D (along track) time-series
<code>plot.fG_osar</code>	Plot One-Step-Ahead Residuals from a <code>foieGras</code> SSM
<code>plot.fG_ssm</code>	Visualise the fit of a <code>foieGras</code> SSM to data

31 2.2 | State-space model fitting - `fit_ssm`

32 2.3 | Visualisation and diagnostics

33 2.4 | Behavioural estimation

34 2.5 | Simulation

35 3 | Examples

36 text here...

37 Extending the behavioural model

38 4 | Discussion

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48 **Author's Contributions**

49 IDJ developed the R package; IDJ and TAP developed the state-space models and wrote the
50 manuscript.

51 **Data Accessibility**

52 All code mentioned here is provided in the `foieGras` package for R available on CRAN at <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=foieGras>. The development version of the package is available on
53 GitHub at <https://github.com/ianjensen/foieGras>. Data used in the examples are available at...

55 **ORCID**

56 *Ian D Jonsen* <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5423-6076>
57 *Toby A Patterson* <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7150-9205>

58 **Bibliography**