Chapter 7: modeling variability in encounter

This chapter provides a succinct overview of how to incorporate covariates into SCr models.

**Section 7.1**

Encounter probability models: is there any advice to be offered regarding when to use a particular encounter model or how to choose among them?

**Code for scr model in JAGS line 6846**

alpha0 ~ dnorm(0,.1) ### why the normal prior here versus a uniform or beta? (puts the prior density on 0.5 instead of at the tails, just not sure why).

Line 6965: So in essence in a longer term study you might actually be able to model differences in sigma (for the half-normal detection function) across the seasons (summer lots of movement, winter not so much), that would be really neat.

Line 6978: So it is possible to distinguish between lower overall detection probability versus contraction of the activity center, i.e animals aren’t detected as far away from their activity center? Or are these confounded? Does contraction of an activity center automatically increase the estimated density of animals?

Line 7261: I think “d” should be ∆