

# rapr: Representative and Adequate Prioritisations in R

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## Abstract

A central aim in conservation is to maximise the long-term persistence of biodiversity. To fulfil this aim, reserve networks are used to safeguard biodiversity patterns (eg. species, populations) and processes (eg. evolutionary processes that underpin genetic variation). Reserve selection is often formulated as an optimisation problem to identify cost-effective prioritisations. However, most existing decision support tools are based on formulations that are well suited for preserving biodiversity patterns, but not biodiversity processes. To fill this gap in the conservation planning toolbox, we developed the **rapr** R package. This R package provides functions to solve reserve selection problems using two novel formulations. Here, we explore the functionality of this R package using simulated species and a conservation planning exercise in Queensland, Australia as a case-study. We demonstrate how explicitly considering biodiversity processes can alter a prioritisation. In most cases, we found that only a few additional planning units are required to sufficiently preserve biodiversity processes.

## Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	3
<b>Problem formulations</b>	4
Unreliable formulation	6
Reliable formulation	7
Optimisation	10
<b>Package overview</b>	10
<b>Package tutorial</b>	11
Simple simulated species	11
Data	11
Single-species prioritisations	14
Amount-based targets	14
Amount-based and space-based targets	21
Multi-species prioritisations	29
Effects of including space-based targets	29
Uncertainty in species' distributions	35
Fragmentation	41
Complex simulated species	47
Data	47
Distance metrics	50
Case-study examples	57
Overview	57
Data	57

Effectiveness of Australia's reserve network compared to optimal prioritisations	60
<b>Implications and future directions</b> . . . . .	71
<b>Acknowledgements</b> . . . . .	72
<b>References</b> . . . . .	72

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## Introduction

The overarching aim of conservation is to maximise the long-term persistence of biodiversity (McNeely 1994; Margules and Pressey 2000). To achieve this, conservation actions must preserve biodiversity patterns (eg. species, populations) and the processes that sustain them. One of the major tangible achievements of modern conservation has been the act of setting aside areas for preservation (Sanderson *et al.* 2015). Reserve networks buffer species from threatening processes [Margules and Pressey (2000); eg. urbanisation] and set the stage for direct management interventions (eg. captive breeding and reintroduction programs; Kleiman 1989). However, the resources available for conservation action are limited, and so reserve networks must be sited in places that satisfy conservation objectives for minimum cost (Margules and Pressey 2000). To achieve this, reserve selection is often formulated as an optimisation problem and then solved to identify cost-effective candidate reserve systems (prioritisations; Margules and Pressey 2000).

To fulfil the overarching aims of conservation, reserve networks must preserve both ecological and evolutionary processes (Margules and Pressey 2000; Crandall *et al.* 2000). Ecological processes, such as predator-prey interactions, pollination, and decomposition, are required for biodiversity to persist over short time-scales. Typically, they operate over small geographic domains—with exceptions such as migration and refugial habitats—and can be preserved using suitably large planning units (Ciarleglio *et al.* 2009) that each contain a discrete unit of habitat (Klein *et al.* 2009). On the other hand, evolutionary processes are required for biodiversity to persist over long time-scales, and they typically operate over large geographic domains. Adaptive evolutionary processes can be preserved by securing populations with different adaptations and/or along selection pressure gradients (eg. environmental gradients; Moritz 2002; Crandall *et al.* 2000; Rouget *et al.* 2003; Cowling *et al.* 2003). Neutral evolutionary processes can be preserved by securing populations with different evolutionary histories and/or with limited gene flow (Moritz 2002; Carvalho *et al.* 2011; Ponce-Reyes *et al.* 2014). Due to advances in technology in recent decades, a wealth of data on biodiversity processes has become freely available to conservation planners. Yet this data is only rarely used to guide conservation planning exercises (Hendry *et al.* 2010). Existing decision support tools focus primarily on preserving biodiversity patterns or occasionally processes—but not both.

Many tools have been developed to assist conservation planners in preserving biodiversity patterns (eg. **C-Plan**, Pressey *et al.* 2009; **ConsNet**, Ciarleglio *et al.* 2009; **Marxan**, Ball *et al.* 2009; **Zonation**, Moilanen 2007). They use targets (eg. **Marxan**) or weights (eg. **Zonation**) to identify prioritisations that contain an adequate amount of individuals or habitat for a set of species (features). To accommodate information on biodiversity processes, conservation planners can split features into sub-features as a pre-processing step (eg. Carvalho *et al.* 2011). However, this approach is limited because data on biodiversity processes is often continuous and hyper-dimensional (eg. bioclimatic data; Hijmans *et al.* 2005), and therefore they often cannot be reduced to a few categories without significant information loss (Faith and Walker 1996). Additionally, these problem formulations cannot accommodate variation within sub-features, and nor can they account for relationships between sub-features (Faith and Walker 1996).

Very few tools have been developed with a specific focus on biodiversity processes. The **DIVERSITY** decision support tool (Faith 2003) uses continuous data to site reserves in places that secure a representative sample of variation across a study area (eg. environmental variation). Originally, this tool was developed to identify prioritizations that secure a comprehensive set of habitats

without using any species-level data. As a consequence, the effectiveness of this tool has been highly contested (Araújo *et al.* 2001, 2003; Faith 2011). Additionally, this tool tended to deliver excessively fragmented prioritisations (cf. Marxan). However, unlike tools that primarily focus on biodiversity patterns, this tool can only accommodate data on the distribution of a single feature.

Today, one of the key issues preventing decision makers from explicitly considering both biodiversity patterns and processes in the reserve selection process is the lack of a decision support tool that can accommodate data on both in a multi-species context. To fill this void, we present the **rapr** R package. This R package provides decision makers with the tools to identify prioritisations that preserve biodiversity patterns and processes. These prioritisations are generated by solving novel formulations of the reserve selection problem that use adequacy- and representation-based targets. We also provide a tutorial showcasing the functionality of this R package using simulated species and a case-study conservation planning scenario in Queensland, Australia.

## Problem formulations

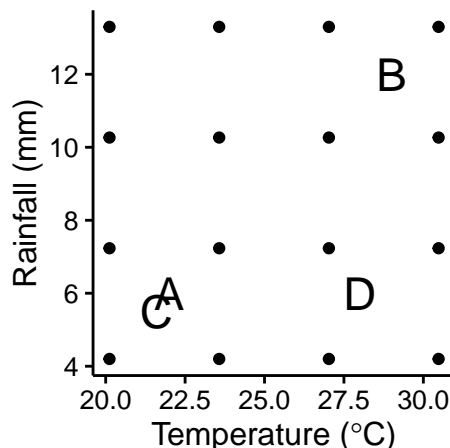
The **rapr** R package uses two novel formulations of the reserve selection problem to identify cost-effective prioritisations. These formulations share many constraints and variables. For brevity, the variables used by both formulations will be defined. Biodiversity features are defined as the entity(s) that the prioritisation is required to preserve (eg. species, populations). Spatial attributes are defined as the intra-feature variation that the prioritisation is required to sample. These attributes are related to the biodiversity processes that the prioritisation needs to represent (eg. environmental variation).

Each attribute is conceptualised as a space and planning units are thought to occupy points inside each space. This space is termed an attribute space. For example, a decision maker may require a prioritisation that preserves populations along climatic gradients. To achieve this, the decision maker might use an “climatic” attribute space with dimensions relating to mean annual temperature (°C) and precipitation (mm). Any given combination of temperature and precipitation may be conceived as a point in this environmental space. By associating planning units with climatic data, they can be mapped from geographic space to this environmental attribute space.

Demand points are points that exist in an attribute space. They are designated by the decision maker to indicate regions of the attribute space that should be preserved in the prioritisation. The amount of variation in the attribute space that a prioritisation secures is a function of the distance between each demand point and each planning unit in the attribute space. The shorter the distances between the demand points and the planning units; the better the prioritisation is at representing the variation in the spatial attribute. To convert these amounts to a proportion—a meaningful unit for a decision maker—the distances between the selected planning units and the demand points are scaled by the distances between the demand points to the centroid of the demand points. In any attribute space there may exist points that are impossible (eg. mean annual rainfall -5 mm), do not occur in the study area (eg. mean annual temperature 30°C in Antarctica), or are undesirable (eg. conditions known to be outside the physiological tolerance of a species). By placing demand points in desirable regions of an attribute space, the decision maker can ensure that prioritisations secure desirable values of a spatial attribute.

To illustrate these concepts, we will briefly describe a conservation planning scenario example involving attribute spaces and demand points. A decision maker may wish to develop a prioritisation for a single species. This species has four populations in the study area. These populations are in

the process of divergent evolution, with different populations inhabiting different environmental conditions and accruing different adaptations. However, the decision maker can only afford to preserve three of the populations. The decision maker needs to select a set of populations that will secure the most of intra-specific variation. To describe this intra-specific variation—given that no genetic data was available—the decision maker obtained data on the environmental conditions (rainfall (mm) and temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )) where each population was found. The decision maker then used this environmental data to construct a two-dimensional environmental attribute space. Next, the decision maker generated demand points as equi-distant points between the range of values where the populations were found ( $\pm 20\%$  to avoid edge effects; Faith and Walker 1996). By comparing the distribution of the demand points to the distribution of the populations in the attribute space, the decision maker can identify a suitable prioritisation (Figure 1). We can see that if the decision maker preserves both populations *A* and *C*, they will effectively “double-up” on the same environmental characteristics, and in turn their waste resources. Instead, a more representative sample of the intra-specific variation could be preserved by securing populations *A*, *B*, and *D*. This example demonstrates how the inclusion of biodiversity processes can guide the reserve selection process.



**Figure 1** Example of an attribute space. This environmental attribute space has dimensions relating to annual temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and rainfall (mm) values. Letters denote the environmental conditions associated with the geographic locations where four hypothetical populations are found. Points represent demand points. In this space, populations closer to each other are considered more similar to each other.

The problem formulations used to guide reserve selection in the **rapr** R package are based on a combination of the **Marxan** reserve selection problem and uncapacitated facility location problems (all mathematical terms defined hereafter are described in Table S1 for convenience). For convenience, the cardinality of sets will be denoted using the same symbol used to denote the variable. Define  $F$  to be the set of features (indexed by  $f$ ). Let  $J$  be a set of planning units (indexed by  $j$ ). Also, let  $A_j$  denote the area, and  $C_j$  denote the cost of preserving planning unit  $j \in J$ . To assess the extent to which each feature is secured in a given prioritisation, let  $q_{fj}$  denote the probability of feature  $f$  occupying planning unit  $j$ . The level of fragmentation associated with a prioritisation is parametrised as the net exposed boundary length. Let the shared boundary length between each planning unit  $j \in J$  and  $k \in J$  be  $b_{jk}$ . In any real-world problem, some planning units will have edges that are not associated with any neighbouring planning units (eg. edges along coastlines), these cases will be denoted using  $b_{jj}$  for  $j \in J$ .

Let  $S$  denote a set of attribute spaces (indexed by  $s$ ). Each  $j \in J$  is associated with spatially explicit

data that represent coordinates for each attribute space  $s \in S$ . Let  $I_{fsi}$  denote a set of demand points (indexed by  $i$ ) for each feature  $f \in F$  and each attribute space  $s \in S$ . Let  $\lambda_{fsi}$  denote the weighting for each demand point  $i \in I$ ,  $f \in F$  and  $s \in S$ . Let  $d_{fsij}$  denote the distance between each demand point  $i \in I$  and each planning unit  $j \in J$  for each feature  $f \in F$  and attribute space  $s \in S$ . Let  $\hat{d}_{fsi}$  denote the distance between each demand point  $i \in I$  and the centroid of the demand points. Demand points with greater weight  $\lambda_{fsi}$  are more important, and the optimal solution will be likely to select planning units close to highly weighted demand points. As a consequence, the decision maker will need to choose an appropriate weighting for each demand point. The decision maker will also need to choose an appropriate distance metric for each attribute space. For example, Euclidean, Mahalanobis (Mahalanobis 1936), Bray-Curtis, or other distance metrics may be appropriate given the nature of the attribute space (Faith *et al.* 1987).

Targets are used to ensure that prioritisations adequately preserve each species. Amount-based targets are used to ensure that the total amount of habitat preserved is sufficient. Let  $\hat{T}_f$  denote the expected amount of area that needs to be preserved for each feature  $f \in F$ . Space-based targets ensure that a sufficient proportion of the intra-specific variation is secured. Let  $\bar{T}_{fs}$  denote the space-based targets for feature  $f \in F$  and attribute space  $a \in A$ . For convenience, these both types of targets are expressed as proportions in the R package.

The R package provides two formulations for reserve selection. They are based on the unreliable (Fernández and Landete 2015) and reliable uncapacitated facility location (Cui *et al.* 2010) problems. The key difference between them is that the reliable formulation explicitly considers the probability that the planning units are occupied when calculating the proportion of variation that a given solution secures, whereas the unreliable formulation does not.

## Unreliable formulation

In the unreliable formulation, the control variables are the  $BLM$ ,  $\hat{t}_s$ , and  $\bar{t}_{sa}$  variables, and the decision variables are the  $X_j$  and  $Y_{fsi}$  variables.

$$X_j = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if planning unit } j \text{ is selected for conservation action} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (1a)$$

$$\hat{T}_s = \text{amount target for feature } f \quad (1b)$$

$$\bar{T}_{sa} = \text{representation target for feature } f \text{ in attribute space } a \quad (1c)$$

$$BLM = \text{boundary length modifier: penalises overly fragmented solutions} \quad (1d)$$

$$Y_{fsi} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if planning unit } i \text{ is assigned to planning unit } j \text{ for feature } f \text{ in space } s \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (1e)$$

The unreliable formulation (URAP) is defined as a multi-objective optimisation problem.

$$\begin{aligned}
(\text{URAP}) \quad & \text{Min} \sum_{j=0}^{J-1} C_j + BLM \times \sum_{j=0}^{J-1} \sum_{k=j}^{J-1} X_j (1 - X_k) b_{jk} + \\
& BLM \times \sum_{j=0}^{J-1} x_j b_{jj} \\
& \text{s.t.} \sum_{j=0}^{J-1} A_j q_{jf} \geq \bar{T}_f \quad \forall 0 \leq f \leq F-1 \quad (2b) \\
& 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{I-1} \sum_{j=0}^{J-1} (\lambda_{fsi} d_{fsij} Y_{fsij})^2}{\sum_{i=0}^{I-1} (\lambda_{fsi} \hat{d}_{fsi})^2} \geq \hat{T}_{fs} \quad \forall 0 \leq f \leq F-1, \quad (2c) \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq s \leq S-1 \\
& \sum_{j=0}^{J-1} Y_{fsij} = 1 \quad \forall 0 \leq f \leq F-1, \quad (2d) \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq s \leq S-1, \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq i \leq I-1 \\
& Y_{fsij} \leq X_j \quad \forall 0 \leq f \leq F-1, \quad (2e) \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq s \leq S-1, \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq i \leq I-1, \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq j \leq J-1 \\
& X_j, Y_{fsij} \in 0, 1 \quad \forall 0 \leq f \leq F-1, \quad (2f) \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq s \leq S-1, \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq i \leq I-1
\end{aligned}$$

The objective function (2a) determines the utility of a given prioritisation: a combination of the total cost of a prioritisation and how fragmented it is. Constraints (2b–2c) ensure that all the amount-based and space-based targets are met. Constraints (2d) ensure that only one planning unit is assigned to each demand point. Constraints (2e) ensure that demand points are only assigned to selected planning units. Constraints (2f) ensure that the  $X$  and  $Y$  variables are binary.

## Reliable formulation

The reliable formulation explicitly considers the probability that the planning units are inhabited. As a consequence, it may deliver prioritisations that will sufficiently represent an attribute space even if the features do not inhabit several of the planning units when the prioritisation is implemented. This behaviour is achieved by siting back-up planning units near selected planning units with low occupancy probabilities in the attribute space(s). To ensure that prioritisations are robust against multiple planning units being uninhabited, the problem assigns planning units at multiple backup levels.

Backup levels are defined as  $r$ -levels (similar to failure levels in Snyder and Daskin 2005). The first backup  $r$ -level is used to calculate the level of representation when all of the selected planning

units are occupied by all  $f \in F$ . For this scenario, the closest selected planning unit to each demand point  $i$  for attribute space  $s$  is assigned at  $r$ -level= 0. This scenario essentially represents  $Y_{fsij}$  in the unreliable formulation. The second backup  $r$ -level is used to assess the level of representation when the closest planning unit to each demand point  $i$  is unoccupied. For this scenario, the second closest planning units are assigned at  $r$ -level= 1. The third backup  $r$ -level is used to assess representation when the first two closest planning units are unoccupied. The third closest planning units are assigned at  $r$ -level= 2. Continuing on, in this manner, the selected planning units in a prioritisation are assigned to each demand point  $i \in I$ , attribute space  $s \in S$ , and each feature  $f \in F$  at an  $r$ -level.

A final backup  $r$ -level when  $r = R$  is used to assess the level of representation when the features  $f \in F$  do not occupy any selected planning units in a prioritisation. Each demand point  $i \in I$  for each  $s \in S$  and  $f \in F$  is assigned to an “imaginary” planning unit  $j = J$  at  $r = R$ . The distance variables associated with this imaginary planning unit  $d_{fsiJ}$  denote the loss of biological value associated with failing to secure a representative sample of feature  $f$  in attribute space  $s$ . However, the  $d$  variables are in distance units which are meaningless units in this context. Thus these variables are calculated using a failure multiplier ( $M$ ) and the maximum distance between the planning units and the demand points for  $f \in F$ ,  $s \in S$  (3).

$$d_{fsiJ} = M \times \max_{0 \leq i \leq I-1, 0 \leq j \leq J-1} d_{fsij} \quad \forall 0 \leq f \leq F-1, \quad (3)$$

$$0 \leq s \leq S-1$$

Moderately-sized conservation planning problems often include several thousand planning units. It is currently not be feasible to solve this problem when considering all possible failure scenarios. As a consequence, the  $R$  variable can be any  $1 \leq R \leq J-1$ . For instance, when  $R = 3$  only 2 backup levels are considered in addition to the final backup level. Cui et al. (2010) found that  $R = 5$  yields similar solutions to  $R = J$  when  $J \gg 5$ . However, depending on the number of features, demand points, attribute spaces, and planning units, decision makers will likely be limited to  $R = 1$  to obtain prioritisations in a feasible amount of time.

In the reliable formulation, the control variables are the  $BLM$ ,  $\hat{t}_s$ ,  $\bar{t}_{sa}$ ,  $R$ , and  $M$  variables. The decision variables are the  $X_j$ ,  $Y_{fsijr}$ ,  $P_{fsijr}$  variables.

(1a–1d)

$$R = \text{number of failure levels} \quad (4a)$$

$$M = \text{failure multiplier} \quad (4b)$$

$$P_{fsijr} = \begin{array}{l} \text{probability that demand point } i \text{ is assigned to planning} \\ \text{unit } j \text{ at back-up level } r \text{ for feature } f \text{ and space } s \end{array} \quad (4c)$$

The reliable formulation (RRAP) is a multi-objective optimisation problem.



$$\begin{aligned}
& \text{(RRAP)} \quad \text{Min (2a)} \\
& \quad \text{s.t. (2b)} \\
& \quad 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{I-1} \sum_{j=0}^{J-1} (\lambda_{fsi} d_{fsij} P_{fsijr} Y_{fsij})^2}{\sum_{i=0}^{I-1} (\lambda_{fsi} \hat{d}_{fsi})^2} \geq \hat{T}_{fs} \quad \forall 0 \leq f \leq F-1, \quad (5a) \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq s \leq S-1 \\
& \quad \sum_{j=0}^{J-1} Y_{fsijr} = 1 \quad \forall 0 \leq f \leq F-1, \quad (5b) \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq s \leq S-1, \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq i \leq I-1, \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq r \leq R \\
& \quad \sum_{r=0}^R Y_{fsijr} = 1 \quad \forall 0 \leq f \leq F-1, \quad (5c) \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq s \leq S-1, \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq i \leq I-1, \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq j \leq J \\
& \quad \sum_{r=0}^{R-1} Y_{fsijr} \leq X_j \quad \forall 0 \leq f \leq F-1, \quad (5d) \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq s \leq S-1, \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq i \leq I-1, \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq j \leq J-1 \\
& \quad Y_{fsiJR} = 1 \quad \forall 0 \leq f \leq F-1, \quad (5e) \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq s \leq S-1, \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq i \leq I-1 \\
& \quad P_{fsij0} = q_{fj} \quad \forall 0 \leq f \leq F-1, \quad (5f) \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq s \leq S-1, \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq i \leq I-1, \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq j \leq J \\
& \quad P_{fsijr} = (1-) \sum_{k=0}^{J-1} \frac{1-q_k}{q_k} P_{f,s,i,k,r-1} Y_{f,s,i,k,r-1} \quad \forall 0 \leq f \leq F-1, \quad (5g) \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq s \leq S-1, \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq i \leq I-1, \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq j \leq J, \\
& \quad \quad \quad 1 \leq r \leq R \\
& \quad X_j, Y_{fsijr} \in 0, 1 \quad \forall 0 \leq f \leq F-1, \quad (5h) \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq s \leq S-1, \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq i \leq I-1, \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq j \leq J, \\
& \quad \quad \quad 0 \leq r \leq R
\end{aligned}$$

The objective function for the reliable formulation is the same as for the unreliable formation (2a). Similar to the unreliable formulation, constraints (2b) and (5a) ensure that the amount-based and space-based targets are met. Constraint (5b–5c) ensure that each planning unit is only assigned to one backup  $r$ -level for  $i \in I$ . Constraints (5d) ensure that only selected planning units are assigned to demand points  $i \in I$ . Constraints (5e) ensure that the imaginary planning unit is always assigned to the highest backup  $r$ -level. Constraints (5f–5g) determine the probability that planning unit  $j$  will be used to sample demand point  $i \in I$  for  $s \in S$  and  $f \in F$  (Cui *et al.* 2010). Constraints (5h) ensure that the  $X$  and  $Y$  variables are binary.

## Optimisation

The unreliable and reliable formulations are non-linear. However, the non-linear components can be linearised using existing techniques. First, the expression  $X_j X_k$  in (2a) can be linearised using methods described by Beyer *et al.* (2015). Second, the expression  $P_{fsijr} Y_{jsijr}$  in (5a) can be linearised using techniques described by Sherali and Alameddine (1992) as implemented in Cui *et al.* (2010). Linearised versions of the problems can be solved using commercial exact algorithm solvers.

The **rapr** R package provides functions to express conservation planning data as an optimisation problems using linearised versions of the unreliable and reliable formulations. These optimisation problems can then be solved to generate prioritisations using the commercial **Gurobi** software suite (<http://www.gurobi.com>). Note that academics can obtain a [license at no cost from the Gurobi website](#). After installing the **Gurobi** software suite, users will need to install the **Gurobi** R package. This R package can be installed on [Windows](#), [Mac OSX](#), and [Linux](#) operating systems.

## Package overview

To load the **rapr** R package and learn more about the package, type the following code into R.

```
# load rapr R package
library(rapr)

# show package overview
?rapr
```

The **rapr** R package uses a range of S4 classes to store conservation planning data, parameters, and prioritisations (Table 1).

Table 1: Main classes in the **rapr** R package

Class Name	Description	Slots
ManualOpts	place-holder class for manually specified solutions	NumberSolutions
GurobiOpts	parameters for solving optimisation problems using Gurobi	Threads, MIPGap, Presolve, TimeLimit, NumberSolutions
RapUnreliableOpts	parameters for the unreliable problem formulation	BLM

Class Name	Description	Slots
RapReliableOpts	parameters for the reliable problem formulation	failure.multiplier, max.r.level
SimplePoints	stores coordinates in an n-dimensional space	coords
DemandPoints	demand points coordinates and weights for a species in an attribute space	points, weights
AttributeSpace	planning unit coordinates and demand points data for an attribute space	pu, demand.points, distance.metric
RapData	planning unit, species, and attribute space data	pu, species, targets, pu.species.probabilities, attribute.spaces, boundary, polygons, .cache
RapUnsolved	data and parameters needed to generate prioritisations using RAP	opts, data
RapResults	prioritisations and summary statistics	summary, selections, amount.held, space.held, logging.file, .cache
RapSolved	data, parameters, and prioritisations using them	opts, data, results

## Package tutorial

This tutorial is designed to provide users with an understanding of how to use the **rapr** R package to generate and compare solutions. This tutorial uses several additional packages, so first we will run the following code to load them.

```
# load packages for tutorial
library(plyr)
library(dplyr)
library(ggplot2)
library(RandomFields)

# set seed for reproducibility
set.seed(500)
```

## Simple simulated species

### Data

To investigate the behaviour of the problem, we will generate prioritisations for three simulated species. We will use the unreliable formulation of the problem to understand the basics, and later move onto the reliable formulation. The first species (termed ‘uniform’) will represent a

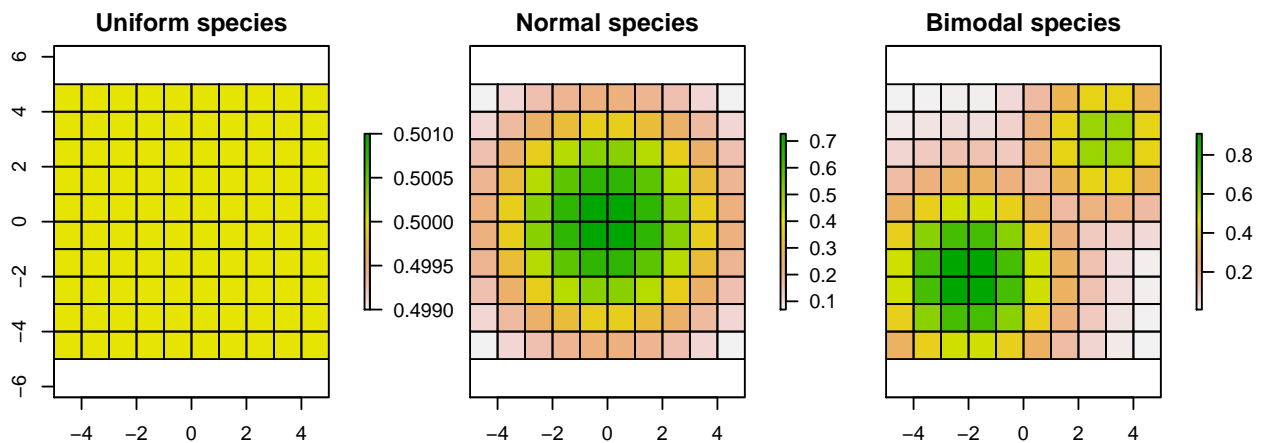
hyper-generalist. This species will inhabit all areas with equal probability. The second species (termed ‘normal’) will represent a species with a single range core. The third species (termed ‘bimodal’) will represent a species with two distinct ecotypes, each with their own range core. To reduce computational time for this example, we will use a  $10 \times 10$  grid of square planning units.

```
# make planning units
sim_pus <- sim.pus(100L)

# simulate species distributions
sim_spp <- lapply(
  c('uniform', 'normal', 'bimodal'),
  sim.species,
  n=1,
  x=sim_pus,
  res=1
)
```

Let’s see what these species’ distributions look like.

```
# plot species
plot(
  stack(sim_spp),
  main=c('Uniform species', 'Normal species', 'Bimodal species'),
  addfun=function(){lines(sim_pus)},
  nc=3
)
```



**Figure 2** Distribution of three simulated species. Each square represents a planning unit. The colour of each square denotes the probability that individuals from each species occupy it.

Next, we will generate a set of demand points. To understand the effects of probabilities and weights on the demand points, we will generate the demand points in geographic space. These demand points will be the centroids of the planning units. Additionally, we will use the same set of demand points for each species and only vary the weights of the demand points between species. **Note**

that we are only using the same distribution of demand points for different species for teaching purposes. It is strongly recommended to use different demand points for different species in real-world conservation planning exercises. See the case-study section of this tutorial for examples on how to generate suitable demand points.

```
# generate coordinates for pus/demand points
pu_coords <- rgeos::gCentroid(sim_pus, byid=TRUE)

# calculate weights
sim_dps <- lapply(
  sim_spp,
  function(x) {
    return(extract(x, pu_coords))
  }
)

# create demand point objects
sim_dps <- lapply(
  sim_dps,
  function(x) {
    return(
      DemandPoints(
        SimplePoints(pu_coords@coords),
        c(x)
      )
    )
  }
)
```

Now, we will construct a `RapUnsolved` object to store our input data and parameters. This contains all the information to generate prioritisations.

```
## create RapUnreliableOpts object
# this stores parameters for the unreliable formulation problem (eg. BLM)
sim_ro <- RapUnreliableOpts()

## create RapData object
# create data.frame with species info
species <- data.frame(
  name=c('uniform', 'normal', 'bimodal')
)

## create data.frame with species and space targets
# amount targets at 20% (denoted with target=0)
# space targets at 20% (denoted with target=1)
targets <- expand.grid(
  species=1:3,
  target=0:1,
```

```

    proportion=0.2
  )

  # calculate probability of each species in each pu
  pu_probabilities <- calcSpeciesAverageInPus(sim_pus, stack(sim_spp))

  ## create AttributeSpace object
  # this stores the coordinates of the planning units in an attribute space
  # and the coordinates and weights of demand points in the space
  attr_space <- AttributeSpace(
    SimplePoints(pu_coords@coords),
    sim_dps
  )

  # generate boundary data information
  boundary <- calcBoundaryData(sim_pus)

  ## create RapData object
  # this stores all the input data for the prioritisation
  sim_rd <- RapData(
    sim_pus@data,
    species,
    targets,
    pu_probabilities,
    list(attr_space),
    boundary,
    SpatialPolygons2PolySet(sim_pus)
  )

  ## create RapUnsolved object
  # this stores all the input data and parameters needed to generate prioritisations
  sim_ru <- RapUnsolved(sim_ro, sim_rd)

```

## Single-species prioritisations

### *Amount-based targets*

To investigate the effects of space-based targets, we will generate a prioritisation for each species using only amount-based targets and compare them to prioritisations generated using amount- and space-based targets. To start off, we will generate a prioritisation for the uniform species using amount-based targets. To do this we will generate a new `sim_ru` object by subsetting out the data for the uniform species from the `sim_ru` object containing data for all the species. Then, we will update the targets in the new object. Finally, we will solve the object to generate a prioritisation that fulfills the targets for minimal cost.

```

# create new object with just the uniform species
sim_ru_s1 <- spp.subset(sim_ru, 'uniform')

```

```
# update amount targets to 20% and space targets to 0%
sim_ru_s1 <- update(sim_ru_s1, amount.target=0.2, space.target=NA, solve=FALSE)
```

```
# solve problem to identify prioritisation
sim_rs_s1_amount <- solve(sim_ru_s1)
```

```
## Optimize a model with 1 rows, 100 columns and 100 nonzeros
## Coefficient statistics:
##   Matrix range      [5e-01, 5e-01]
##   Objective range   [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   Bounds range     [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   RHS range        [1e+01, 1e+01]
## Found heuristic solution: objective 20
## Presolve removed 1 rows and 100 columns
## Presolve time: 0.00s
## Presolve: All rows and columns removed
##
## Explored 0 nodes (0 simplex iterations) in 0.00 seconds
## Thread count was 1 (of 2 available processors)
##
## Optimal solution found (tolerance 5.00e-02)
## Best objective 2.000000000000e+01, best bound 2.000000000000e+01, gap 0.0%
## species = 0; space = 0; tss = 412.5; spaceheld = 510; prop = -0.236364

## Warning in validityMethod(object): object@space.held contains values less
## than 0, some species are really poorly represented
```

```
## show summary
# note the format for this is similar to that used by Marxan
# see ?rapr::summary for details on this table
summary(sim_rs_s1_amount)
```

```
##   Run_Number  Status Score Cost Planning_Units Connectivity_Total
## 1           1 OPTIMAL   20   20             20             220
##   Connectivity_In Connectivity_Edge Connectivity_Out
## 1              42             168             10
##   Connectivity_In_Fraction
## 1              0.1909091
```

```
# show amount held
amount.held(sim_rs_s1_amount)
```

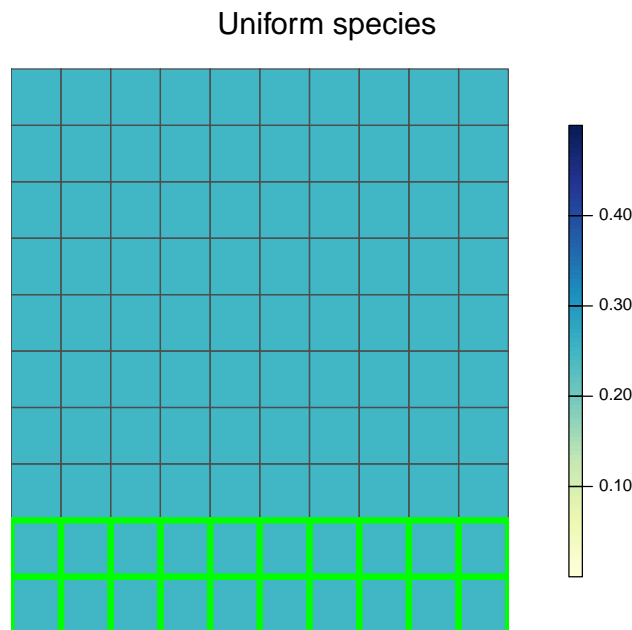
```
##   uniform
## 1      0.2
```

```
# show space held
space.held(sim_rs_s1_amount)
```

```
##    uniform (Space 1)
## 1      -0.2363636
```

Now that we have generated a prioritisation, we will see what it looks like. We can use the `spp.plot` method to see how the prioritisation overlaps with the uniform species' distribution. Note that since all planning units have equal probabilities for this species, all planning units have the same fill.

```
# plot the prioritisation and the uniform species' distribution
spp.plot(sim_rs_s1_amount, 1, main='Uniform species')
```



**Figure 3** A prioritisation for the uniformly distributed species generated using amount-based targets (20%). Squares represent planning units. Planning units with a green border are selected for prioritisation, and their colour denotes the probability they are inhabited by the species.

The prioritisation for the uniform species appears to be just a random selection of planning units. This behavior is due to the fact that any prioritisation with 20 planning units is optimal. By relying on just amount targets, this solution may preserve a section of the species' range core, or just focus on the range margin, or some random part of its range—no emphasis is directed towards preserving different parts of the species' range. This behavior highlights a fundamental limitation of just using amount-based targets. In the absence of additional criteria, conventional reserve selection problems do not contain any additional information to identify the most effective prioritisation.

Now, we will generate a prioritisation for the normally distributed species using amount-targets. We will use a similar process to what we used for the uniformly distributed species, but for brevity, we will use code to generate solutions immediately after updating the object.



```
# create new object with just the normal species
```

```
sim_ru_s2 <- spp.subset(sim_ru, 'normal')
```

```
# update amount targets to 20% and space targets to 0% and solve it
```

```
sim_rs_s2_amount <- update(sim_ru_s2, amount.target=0.2, space.target=NA, solve=TRUE)
```

```
## Optimize a model with 1 rows, 100 columns and 100 nonzeros
```

```
## Coefficient statistics:
```

```
## Matrix range [7e-02, 7e-01]
```

```
## Objective range [1e+00, 1e+00]
```

```
## Bounds range [1e+00, 1e+00]
```

```
## RHS range [7e+00, 7e+00]
```

```
## Found heuristic solution: objective 27
```

```
## Presolve removed 0 rows and 86 columns
```

```
## Presolve time: 0.00s
```

```
## Presolved: 1 rows, 14 columns, 14 nonzeros
```

```
## Variable types: 0 continuous, 14 integer (0 binary)
```

```
## Presolved: 1 rows, 14 columns, 14 nonzeros
```

```
##
```

```
##
```

```
## Root relaxation: objective 9.864476e+00, 6 iterations, 0.00 seconds
```

```
##
```

```
## Nodes | Current Node | Objective Bounds | Work
## Expl Unexpl | Obj Depth IntInf | Incumbent BestBd Gap | It/Node Time
```

```
##
```

```
## 0 0 9.86448 0 1 27.00000 9.86448 63.5% - 0s
```

```
## H 0 0 10.0000000 9.86448 1.36% - 0s
```

```
##
```

```
## Explored 0 nodes (6 simplex iterations) in 0.02 seconds
```

```
## Thread count was 1 (of 2 available processors)
```

```
##
```

```
## Optimal solution found (tolerance 5.00e-02)
```

```
## Best objective 1.000000000000e+01, best bound 1.000000000000e+01, gap 0.0%
```

```
## species = 0; space = 0; tss = 111.252; spaceheld = 38.7164; prop = 0.651993
```

```
# show summary
```

```
summary(sim_rs_s2_amount)
```

```
## Run_Number Status Score Cost Planning_Units Connectivity_Total
```

```
## 1 1 OPTIMAL 10 10 10 220
```

```
## Connectivity_In Connectivity_Edge Connectivity_Out
```

```
## 1 12 192 16
```

```
## Connectivity_In_Fraction
```

```
## 1 0.05454545
```

```
# show amount held
amount.held(sim_rs_s2_amount)
```

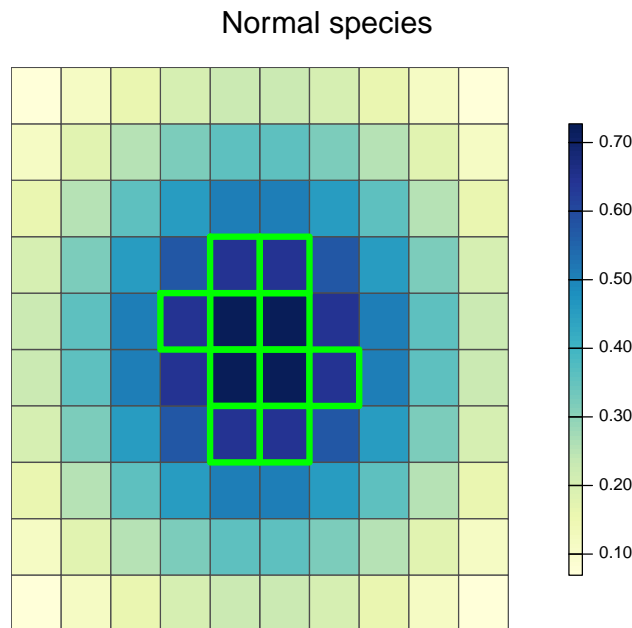
```
##      normal
## 1 0.2026153
```

```
# show space held
space.held(sim_rs_s2_amount)
```

```
##      normal (Space 1)
## 1          0.6519926
```

Now let's visualise the prioritisation we made for the normal species.

```
# plot the prioritisation and the normal species' distribution
spp.plot(sim_rs_s2_amount, 1, main='Normal species')
```



**Figure 4** A prioritisation for the normally distributed species generated using amount-based targets (20%). See Figure 3 caption for conventions.

The amount-based prioritisation for the normal species focuses only on the species' range core. This prioritisation fails to secure any peripheral parts of the species' distribution. As a consequence, it may miss out on populations with novel adaptations to environmental conditions along the species' range margin.

Now, let's generate an amount-based target for the bimodally distributed species view it.

```
# create new object with just the bimodal species
```

```
sim_ru_s3 <- spp.subset(sim_ru, 'bimodal')
```

```
# update amount targets to 20% and space targets to 0% and solve it
```

```
sim_rs_s3_amount <- update(sim_ru_s3, amount.target=0.2, space.target=NA)
```

```
## Optimize a model with 1 rows, 100 columns and 100 nonzeros
```

```
## Coefficient statistics:
```

```
## Matrix range [7e-03, 9e-01]
```

```
## Objective range [1e+00, 1e+00]
```

```
## Bounds range [1e+00, 1e+00]
```

```
## RHS range [7e+00, 7e+00]
```

```
## Found heuristic solution: objective 21
```

```
## Presolve removed 0 rows and 75 columns
```

```
## Presolve time: 0.00s
```

```
## Presolved: 1 rows, 25 columns, 25 nonzeros
```

```
## Variable types: 0 continuous, 25 integer (0 binary)
```

```
## Presolved: 1 rows, 25 columns, 25 nonzeros
```

```
##
```

```
##
```

```
## Root relaxation: objective 7.919039e+00, 18 iterations, 0.00 seconds
```

```
##
```

Nodes		Current Node			Objective Bounds			Work	
Expl	Unexpl	Obj	Depth	IntInf	Incumbent	BestBd	Gap	It/Node	Time

```
##
```

	0	0	7.91904	0	1	21.00000	7.91904	62.3%	-	0s
--	---	---	---------	---	---	----------	---------	-------	---	----

H	0	0				8.0000000	7.91904	1.01%	-	0s
---	---	---	--	--	--	-----------	---------	-------	---	----

```
##
```

```
## Explored 0 nodes (18 simplex iterations) in 0.00 seconds
```

```
## Thread count was 1 (of 2 available processors)
```

```
##
```

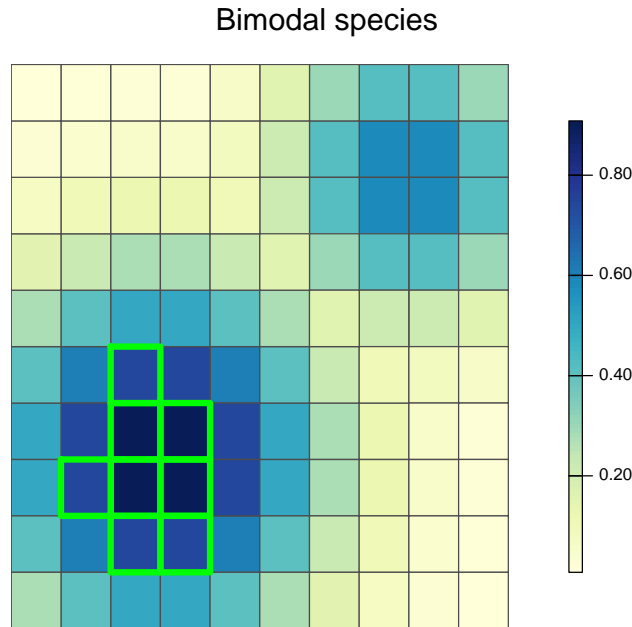
```
## Optimal solution found (tolerance 5.00e-02)
```

```
## Best objective 8.000000000000e+00, best bound 8.000000000000e+00, gap 0.0%
```

```
## species = 0; space = 0; tss = 221.892; spaceheld = 159.117; prop = 0.282911
```

```
# plot the prioritisation and the bimodal species' distribution
```

```
spp.plot(sim_rs_s3_amount, 1, main='Bimodal species')
```



**Figure 5** A prioritisation for the bimodally distributed species generated using amount-based targets (20%). See Figure 3 caption for conventions.

```
# show summary
summary(sim_rs_s3_amount)

## Run_Number Status Score Cost Planning_Units Connectivity_Total
## 1 1 OPTIMAL 8 8 8 220
## Connectivity_In Connectivity_Edge Connectivity_Out
## 1 9 197 14
## Connectivity_In_Fraction
## 1 0.04090909

# show amount held
amount.held(sim_rs_s3_amount)

## bimodal
## 1 0.2018391

# show space held
space.held(sim_rs_s3_amount)

## bimodal (Space 1)
## 1 0.2829105
```

The amount-based prioritisation for the bimodally distributed species only selects planning units in the bottom left corner of the study area. This prioritisation only preserves individuals belonging to

one of the two ecotypes. As a consequence, this prioritisation may fail to preserve a representative sample of the genetic variation found inside this species.

### *Amount-based and space-based targets*

Now that we have generated a prioritisation for each species using only amount-based targets, we will generate a prioritisations using both amount-based and space-targets. To do this we will update the space targets in our amount-based prioritisations to 50%, and store the new prioritisations in new objects.

First, let's do this for the uniform species.

```
# make new prioritisation
sim_rs_s1_space <- update(sim_rs_s1_amount, amount.target=0.2, space.target=0.5)
```

```
## Warning for adding variables: zero or small (< 1e-13) coefficients, ignored
## Optimize a model with 10102 rows, 10100 columns and 40000 nonzeros
## Coefficient statistics:
##   Matrix range      [2e-01, 4e+01]
##   Objective range   [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   Bounds range      [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   RHS range         [1e+00, 2e+02]
## Found heuristic solution: objective 81
## Presolve time: 0.90s
## Presolved: 10102 rows, 10100 columns, 40000 nonzeros
## Variable types: 0 continuous, 10100 integer (10100 binary)
## Presolved: 10102 rows, 10100 columns, 40000 nonzeros
##
## Presolve removed 10102 rows and 10100 columns
##
## Root relaxation: objective 2.000000e+01, 551 iterations, 0.27 seconds
##
##      Nodes      |      Current Node      |      Objective Bounds      |      Work
##  Expl Unexpl |  Obj  Depth IntInf | Incumbent    BestBd   Gap | It/Node Time
##
## *    0        0                0      20.0000000    20.00000    0.00%    -    1s
##
## Explored 0 nodes (552 simplex iterations) in 1.25 seconds
## Thread count was 1 (of 2 available processors)
##
## Optimal solution found (tolerance 5.00e-02)
## Best objective 2.000000000000e+01, best bound 2.000000000000e+01, gap 0.0%
## species = 0; space = 0; tss = 412.5; spaceheld = 49.75; prop = 0.879394
```

```
# show summary
summary(sim_rs_s1_space)
```

```
##   Run_Number  Status Score Cost Planning_Units Connectivity_Total
```

```
## 1          1 OPTIMAL      20    20          20          220
## Connectivity_In Connectivity_Edge Connectivity_Out
## 1          18          147          55
## Connectivity_In_Fraction
## 1          0.08181818
```

```
# show amount held
amount.held(sim_rs_s1_space)
```

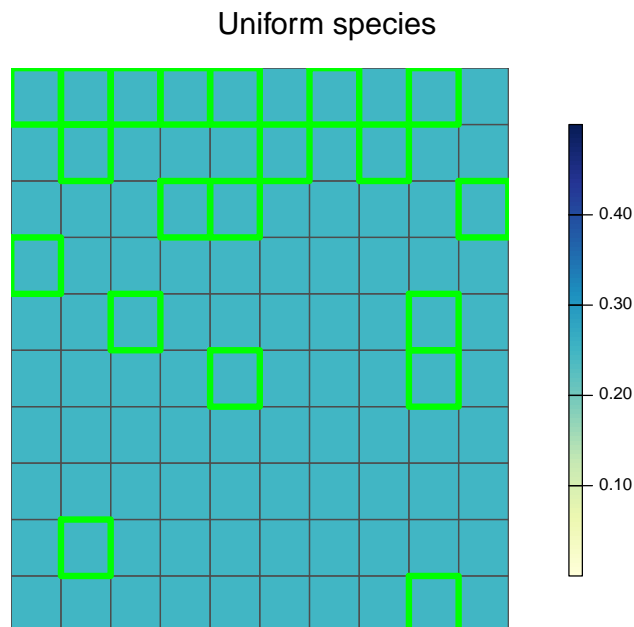
```
## uniform
## 1      0.2
```

```
# show space held
space.held(sim_rs_s1_space)
```

```
## uniform (Space 1)
## 1      0.8793939
```

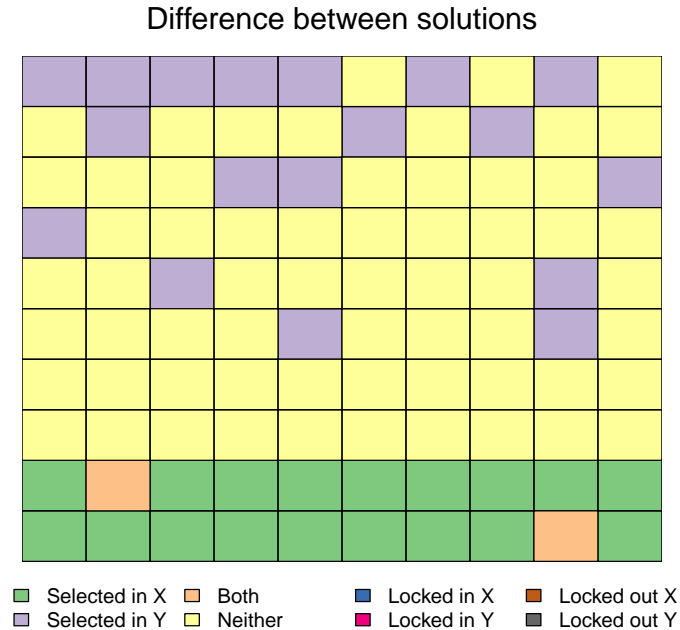
Let's take a look at the prioritisation for the uniform species with amount-based and space-based targets. Then, let's compare the solutions for the amount-based prioritisation with the new prioritisation using both amount and space targets.

```
# plot the prioritisation and the uniform species' distribution
spp.plot(sim_rs_s1_space, 'uniform', main='Uniform species')
```



**Figure 6** A prioritisation for the uniformly distributed species generated using amount-based targets (20%) and space-based targets (85%). See Figure 3 caption for conventions.

```
# plot the difference between old and new prioritisations
plot(sim_rs_s1_amount, sim_rs_s1_space, 1, 1, main='Difference between solutions')
```



**Figure 7** Difference between two prioritisations for the uniformly distributed species. Prioritisation  $X$  was generated using just amount-based targets (20%), and prioritisation  $Y$  was generated using an additional space-based target (85%).

Here we can see that by including a space-target, the prioritisation is spread out evenly across the species' distribution. Unlike the amount-based prioritisation, this prioritisation samples all the different parts of the species' distribution.

Now, let's generate a prioritisation for the normally distributed species that considers amount-based and space-based targets. Then, let's visualise the new prioritisation and compare it to the old amount-based prioritisation.

```
# make new prioritisation
sim_rs_s2_space <- update(sim_rs_s2_amount, amount.target=0.2, space.target=0.85)

## Warning for adding variables: zero or small (< 1e-13) coefficients, ignored
## Optimize a model with 10102 rows, 10100 columns and 40000 nonzeros
## Coefficient statistics:
##   Matrix range      [5e-03, 3e+01]
##   Objective range   [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   Bounds range     [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   RHS range        [1e+00, 2e+01]
## Found heuristic solution: objective 87
## Presolve removed 1176 rows and 192 columns (presolve time = 5s) ...
```

```

## Presolve removed 1178 rows and 192 columns
## Presolve time: 9.96s
## Presolved: 8924 rows, 9908 columns, 55525 nonzeros
## Variable types: 0 continuous, 9908 integer (9908 binary)
## Presolve removed 1 rows and 0 columns
## Presolved: 8923 rows, 9908 columns, 55510 nonzeros
##
## Presolve removed 8923 rows and 9908 columns
##
## Root simplex log...
##
## Iteration      Objective      Primal Inf.      Dual Inf.      Time
##      0      1.0000000e+02      0.000000e+00      1.000000e+02      10s
##     3156      1.2049877e+01      0.000000e+00      0.000000e+00      11s
##     3156      1.2049877e+01      0.000000e+00      0.000000e+00      11s
##
## Root relaxation: objective 1.204988e+01, 3156 iterations, 0.88 seconds
##
##      Nodes      |      Current Node      |      Objective Bounds      |      Work
##  Expl Unexpl |  Obj  Depth IntInf | Incumbent      BestBd      Gap | It/Node Time
##
##      0      0      12.04988      0  409      87.00000      12.04988      86.1%      -      11s
## H      0      0                      13.0000000      12.04988      7.31%      -      12s
##
## Explored 0 nodes (3431 simplex iterations) in 12.05 seconds
## Thread count was 1 (of 2 available processors)
##
## Optimal solution found (tolerance 5.00e-02)
## Best objective 1.3000000000000e+01, best bound 1.3000000000000e+01, gap 0.0%
## species = 0; space = 0; tss = 111.252; spaceheld = 16.4283; prop = 0.852332

```

```

# show summary
summary(sim_rs_s2_space)

```

```

##      Run_Number  Status Score Cost Planning_Units Connectivity_Total
## 1              1 OPTIMAL   13   13              13              220
## Connectivity_In Connectivity_Edge Connectivity_Out
## 1              7              175              38
## Connectivity_In_Fraction
## 1              0.03181818

```

```

# show amount held
amount.held(sim_rs_s2_space)

```

```

##      normal
## 1 0.2122983

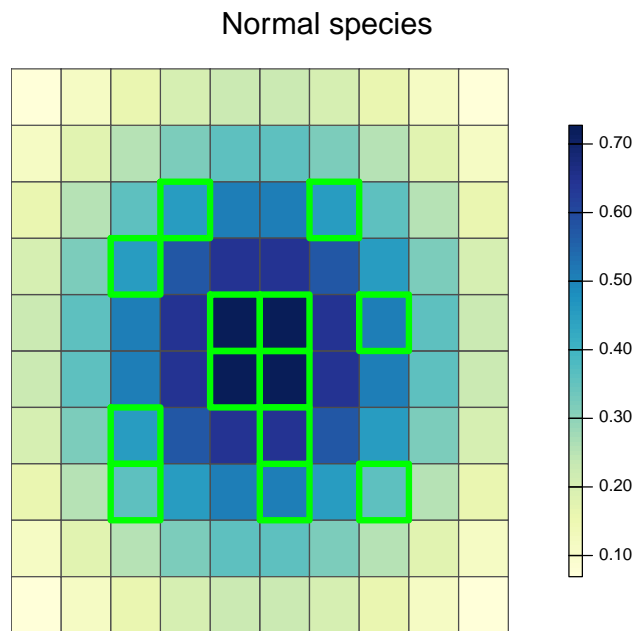
```



```
# show space held
space.held(sim_rs_s2_space)
```

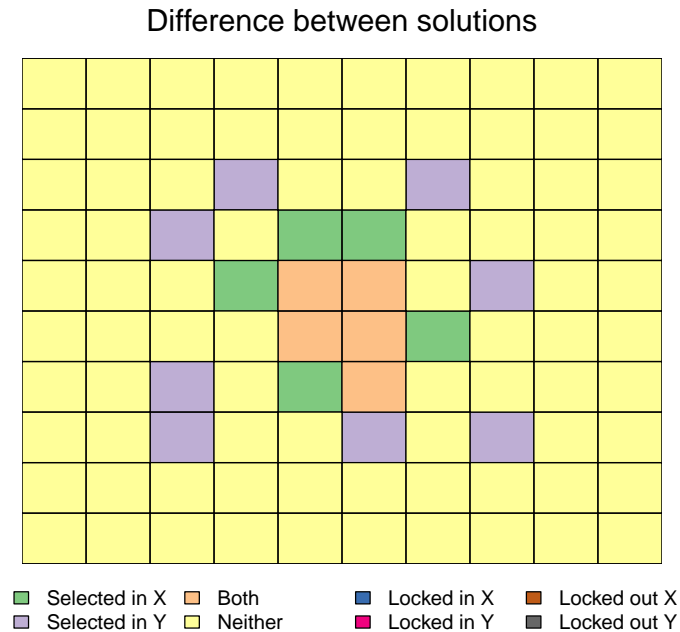
```
## normal (Space 1)
## 1 0.8523318
```

```
# plot the prioritisation and the normal species' distribution
spp.plot(sim_rs_s2_space, 'normal', main='Normal species')
```



**Figure 8** A prioritisation for the normally distributed species generated using amount-based targets (20%) and space-based targets (85%). See Figure 3 caption for conventions.

```
# plot the difference between old and new prioritisations
plot(sim_rs_s2_amount, sim_rs_s2_space, 1, 1, main='Difference between solutions')
```



**Figure 9** Difference between two prioritisations for the normally distributed species. See Figure 7 caption for conventions.

We can see by using both amount-based and space-based targets we can obtain a prioritisation that secures both the species' range core and parts of its range margin. As a consequence, it may capture any novel adaptations found along the species' range margin—unlike the amount-based prioritisation. Finally, let's generate a prioritisation for the bimodal species using amount-based and space-based targets.

```
# make new prioritisation
sim_rs_s3_space <- update(sim_rs_s3_amount, amount.target=0.2, space.target=0.85)

## Warning for adding variables: zero or small (< 1e-13) coefficients, ignored
## Optimize a model with 10102 rows, 10100 columns and 40000 nonzeros
## Coefficient statistics:
##   Matrix range    [6e-05, 8e+01]
##   Objective range [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   Bounds range    [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   RHS range       [1e+00, 3e+01]
## Found heuristic solution: objective 83
## Presolve removed 817 rows and 184 columns (presolve time = 5s) ...
## Presolve removed 817 rows and 184 columns
## Presolve time: 7.36s
## Presolved: 9285 rows, 9916 columns, 50895 nonzeros
## Variable types: 0 continuous, 9916 integer (9916 binary)
## Presolve removed 2 rows and 0 columns
## Presolved: 9283 rows, 9916 columns, 50869 nonzeros
```

```
##
## Presolve removed 9283 rows and 9916 columns
##
## Root simplex log...
##
## Iteration      Objective      Primal Inf.      Dual Inf.      Time
##      0      1.0000000e+02      0.000000e+00      1.000000e+02      8s
##     9465      8.1205830e+00      0.000000e+00      0.000000e+00      9s
##     9465      8.1205830e+00      0.000000e+00      0.000000e+00      9s
##
## Root relaxation: objective 8.120583e+00, 9465 iterations, 2.03 seconds
##
##      Nodes      |      Current Node      |      Objective Bounds      |      Work
##  Expl Unexpl |  Obj  Depth IntInf | Incumbent      BestBd      Gap | It/Node Time
##
##      0      0      8.12058      0  207      83.00000      8.12058  90.2%      -      9s
## H      0      0                      9.0000000      8.12058  9.77%      -      9s
##
## Explored 0 nodes (9665 simplex iterations) in 9.81 seconds
## Thread count was 1 (of 2 available processors)
##
## Optimal solution found (tolerance 5.00e-02)
## Best objective 9.0000000000000e+00, best bound 9.0000000000000e+00, gap 0.0%
## species = 0; space = 0; tss = 221.892; spaceheld = 26.3218; prop = 0.881376
```

```
# show summary
summary(sim_rs_s3_space)
```

```
##      Run_Number  Status Score Cost Planning_Units Connectivity_Total
## 1              1 OPTIMAL      9      9              9              220
##      Connectivity_In Connectivity_Edge Connectivity_Out
## 1              9              193              18
##      Connectivity_In_Fraction
## 1              0.04090909
```

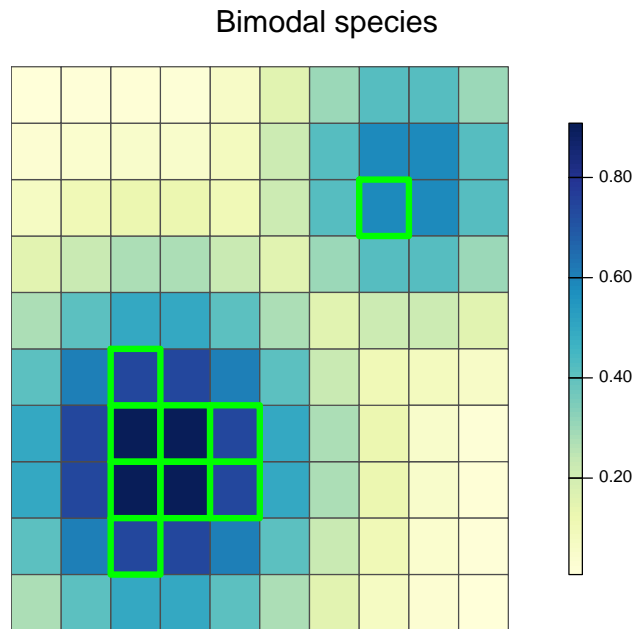
```
# show amount held
amount.held(sim_rs_s3_space)
```

```
##      bimodal
## 1 0.219729
```

```
# show space held
space.held(sim_rs_s3_space)
```

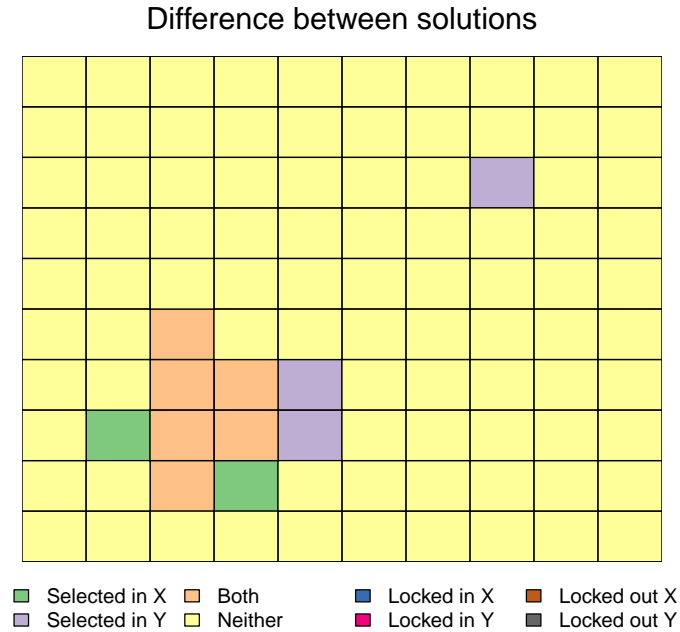
```
##      bimodal (Space 1)
## 1              0.8813757
```

```
# plot the prioritisation and the bimodal species' distribution
spp.plot(sim_rs_s3_space, 'bimodal', main='Bimodal species')
```



**Figure 10** A prioritisation for the normally distributed species generated using amount-based targets (20%) and space-based targets (85%). See Figure 3 caption for conventions.

```
# plot the difference between old and new prioritisations
plot(sim_rs_s3_amount, sim_rs_s3_space, 1, 1, main='Difference between solutions')
```



**Figure 11** Difference between two prioritisations for the bimodally distributed species. See Figure 7 caption for conventions.

Earlier we found that the amount-based prioritisation only preserved individuals from a single ecotype, and would have failed to adequately preserve the intra-specific variation for this species. However, here we can see that by including space-based targets, we can develop prioritisations that secure individuals belonging to both ecotypes. This new prioritisation is much more effective at sampling the intra-specific variation for this species.

Overall, these results demonstrate that under the simplest of conditions, the use of space-based targets can improve prioritisations. However, these prioritisations were each generated for a single species. It is possible that prioritisations generated using multiple species may do a better job at preserving the intra-specific variation for individuals species by preserving them in different parts of their range. We will investigate this in the next section.

## Multi-species prioritisations

### *Effects of including space-based targets*

So far we have generated prioritisations using only a single species at a time. However, real world prioritisations are often generated using multiple species to ensure that they preserve a comprehensive set of biodiversity. Here, we will generate multi-species prioritisations that preserve all three of the simulated species. First, we will generate a prioritisation using amount-based targets that only aims to preserve 20% of the area they occupy. Then, we will generate a prioritisation that also incorporate space-based targets to also preserve 85% of their geographic distribution. We will then compare the two prioritisations.

```
# make prioritisations
sim_mrs_amount <- update(
  sim_ru,
```

```

amount.target=c(0.2,0.2,0.2),
space.target=c(0,0,0)
)

## Warning for adding variables: zero or small (< 1e-13) coefficients, ignored
## Optimize a model with 30306 rows, 30100 columns and 120000 nonzeros
## Coefficient statistics:
##   Matrix range      [6e-05, 8e+01]
##   Objective range   [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   Bounds range      [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   RHS range         [1e+00, 4e+02]
## Found heuristic solution: objective 99
## Presolve removed 0 rows and 0 columns (presolve time = 5s) ...
## Presolve time: 5.19s
## Presolved: 30306 rows, 30100 columns, 120000 nonzeros
## Variable types: 0 continuous, 30100 integer (30100 binary)
## Presolved: 30306 rows, 30100 columns, 120000 nonzeros
##
## Presolve removed 30306 rows and 30100 columns
##
## Root simplex log...
##
## Iteration    Objective      Primal Inf.    Dual Inf.      Time
##      0      1.0000000e+02    0.000000e+00    1.000000e+02     7s
##    2384      2.0000000e+01    5.622070e+01    0.000000e+00    10s
##    3319      2.0000000e+01    0.000000e+00    0.000000e+00    12s
##    3319      2.0000000e+01    0.000000e+00    0.000000e+00    12s
##
## Root relaxation: objective 2.000000e+01, 3319 iterations, 6.61 seconds
##
##      Nodes   |   Current Node   |   Objective Bounds   |   Work
##  Expl Unexpl |  Obj  Depth IntInf | Incumbent    BestBd   Gap | It/Node Time
##
## *    0      0           0      20.0000000    20.000000  0.00%   -   12s
##
## Explored 0 nodes (4618 simplex iterations) in 12.09 seconds
## Thread count was 1 (of 2 available processors)
##
## Optimal solution found (tolerance 5.00e-02)
## Best objective 2.0000000000000e+01, best bound 2.0000000000000e+01, gap 0.0%
## species = 0; space = 0; tss = 412.5; spaceheld = 58; prop = 0.859394
## species = 1; space = 0; tss = 111.252; spaceheld = 19.9678; prop = 0.820516
## species = 2; space = 0; tss = 221.892; spaceheld = 25.1494; prop = 0.886659

sim_mrs_space <- update(
  sim_ru,
  amount.target=c(0.2,0.2,0.2),

```

```

space.target=c(0.85, 0.85, 0.85)
)

## Warning for adding variables: zero or small (< 1e-13) coefficients, ignored
## Optimize a model with 30306 rows, 30100 columns and 120000 nonzeros
## Coefficient statistics:
##   Matrix range      [6e-05, 8e+01]
##   Objective range   [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   Bounds range      [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   RHS range         [1e+00, 6e+01]
## Found heuristic solution: objective 99
## Presolve removed 1362 rows and 376 columns (presolve time = 5s) ...
## Presolve removed 1391 rows and 376 columns (presolve time = 10s) ...
## Presolve removed 1595 rows and 376 columns (presolve time = 15s) ...
## Presolve removed 1636 rows and 376 columns (presolve time = 21s) ...
## Presolve removed 1636 rows and 376 columns (presolve time = 25s) ...
## Presolve removed 1636 rows and 376 columns
## Presolve time: 26.71s
## Presolved: 28670 rows, 29724 columns, 137500 nonzeros
## Variable types: 0 continuous, 29724 integer (29724 binary)
## Presolved: 28670 rows, 29724 columns, 137500 nonzeros
##
## Presolve removed 28670 rows and 29724 columns
##
## Root simplex log...
##
## Iteration    Objective      Primal Inf.    Dual Inf.      Time
##      0      1.0000000e+02    0.000000e+00    1.000000e+02    28s
##    3720      2.2009864e+01    0.000000e+00    1.187453e+04    30s
##    4125      2.0000000e+01    0.000000e+00    0.000000e+00    30s
##    4125      2.0000000e+01    0.000000e+00    0.000000e+00    30s
##
## Root relaxation: objective 2.000000e+01, 4125 iterations, 3.70 seconds
##
##      Nodes   |   Current Node   |   Objective Bounds   |   Work
##  Expl Unexpl |  Obj  Depth IntInf | Incumbent    BestBd   Gap | It/Node Time
##
##      0      0   20.00000    0    2   99.00000    20.00000   79.8%   -   31s
## H      0      0                20.0000000    20.00000   0.00%   -   31s
##
## Explored 0 nodes (5947 simplex iterations) in 31.18 seconds
## Thread count was 1 (of 2 available processors)
##
## Optimal solution found (tolerance 5.00e-02)
## Best objective 2.0000000000000e+01, best bound 2.0000000000000e+01, gap 0.0%
## species = 0; space = 0; tss = 412.5; spaceheld = 28; prop = 0.932121
## species = 1; space = 0; tss = 111.252; spaceheld = 13.2929; prop = 0.880515

```

```
## species = 2; space = 0; tss = 221.892; spaceheld = 16.3965; prop = 0.926106
```

```
# show summaries
```

```
summary(sim_mrs_amount)
```

```
## Run_Number Status Score Cost Planning_Units Connectivity_Total
## 1          1 OPTIMAL    20    20              20              220
## Connectivity_In Connectivity_Edge Connectivity_Out
## 1          17              147              56
## Connectivity_In_Fraction
## 1          0.07727273
```

```
summary(sim_mrs_space)
```

```
## Run_Number Status Score Cost Planning_Units Connectivity_Total
## 1          1 OPTIMAL    20    20              20              220
## Connectivity_In Connectivity_Edge Connectivity_Out
## 1          7              142              71
## Connectivity_In_Fraction
## 1          0.03181818
```

```
# show amount held for each prioritisation
```

```
amount.held(sim_mrs_amount)
```

```
## uniform normal bimodal
## 1      0.2 0.201559 0.2012952
```

```
amount.held(sim_mrs_space)
```

```
## uniform normal bimodal
## 1      0.2 0.2185579 0.2232897
```

```
# show space held for each prioritisation
```

```
space.held(sim_mrs_amount)
```

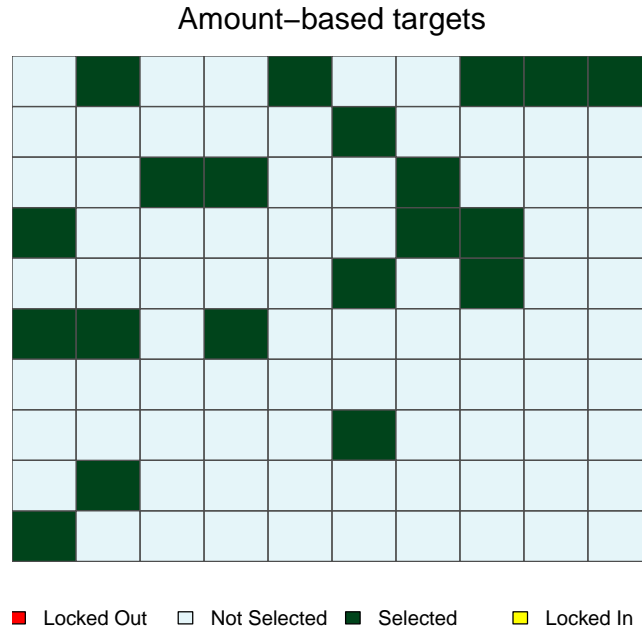
```
## uniform (Space 1) normal (Space 1) bimodal (Space 1)
## 1      0.8593939      0.8205165      0.8866593
```

```
space.held(sim_mrs_space)
```

```
## uniform (Space 1) normal (Space 1) bimodal (Space 1)
## 1      0.9321212      0.8805152      0.9261063
```



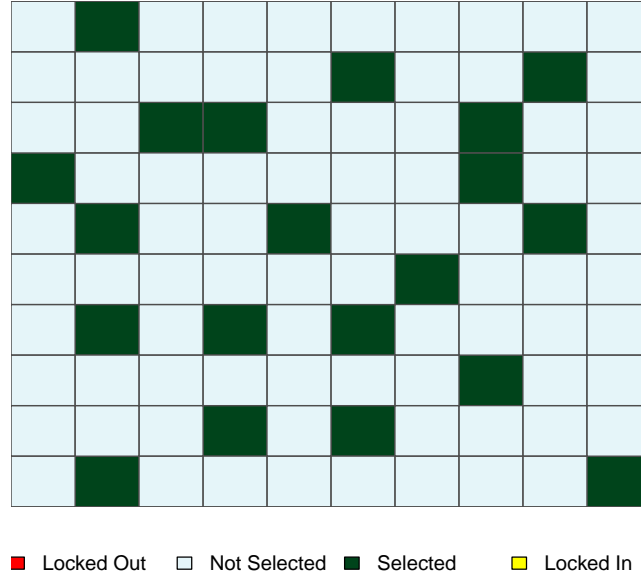
```
# plot multi-species prioritisation with amount-based targets
plot(sim_mrs_amount, 1, main='Amount-based targets')
```



**Figure 12** A multi-species prioritisation for the uniformly, normally, and bimodally distributed species generated using just amount-based targets (20%). Squares represent planning units. Dark green planning units are selected for preservation.

```
# plot multi-species prioritisation with amount- and space-based targets
plot(sim_mrs_space, 1, main='Amount and space-based targets')
```

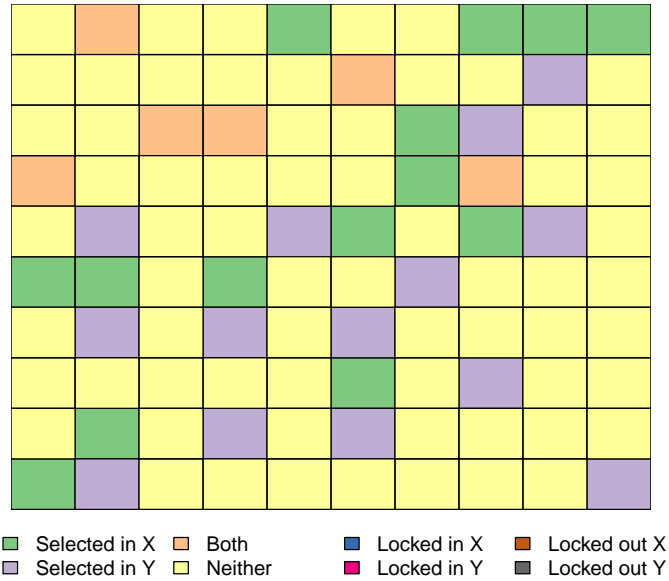
Amount and space-based targets



**Figure 13** A multi-species prioritisation for the uniformly, normally, and bimodally distributed species generated using amount-based targets (20%) and space-based targets (85%). See Figure 12 caption for conventions.

```
# difference between the two prioritisations
plot(sim_mrs_amount, sim_mrs_space, 1, 1, main='Difference between solutions')
```

Difference between solutions



**Figure 14** Difference between two multi-species prioritisations. See Figure 7 caption for conventions.

Here we can see that the inclusion of space-based targets changes which planning units are selected for prioritisation, but also the number of planning units that are selected. The amount-based prioritisation is comprised of 20 units, and the space-based prioritisation is comprised of 20 units. This result suggests that an adequate and representative prioritisation can be achieved for only a minor increase in cost.

### *Uncertainty in species' distributions*

The unreliable formulation does not consider the probability that the planning units are occupied by features when calculating how well a given solution secures a representative sample of an attribute space. Thus solutions identified using the unreliable formulation may select regions of an attribute space for a species using planning units that only have a small chance of being inhabited. As a consequence, if the prioritisation is implemented, it may fail to secure regions of an attribute space if individuals do not inhabit these planning units, and ultimately fail to fulfil the space-based targets.

A simple solution to this issue would be to ensure that planning units cannot be assigned to demand points if they have a low probability of occupancy. This can be achieved by setting a probability threshold for planning units, such that planning units with a probability of occupancy below the threshold are effectively set to zero.

```
# make new prioritisation with probability threshold of 0.5 for each species
sim_mrs_space2 <- solve(
  prob.subset(
    sim_mrs_space,
    species=1:3,
    threshold=c(0.1,0.1,0.1)
  )
)
```

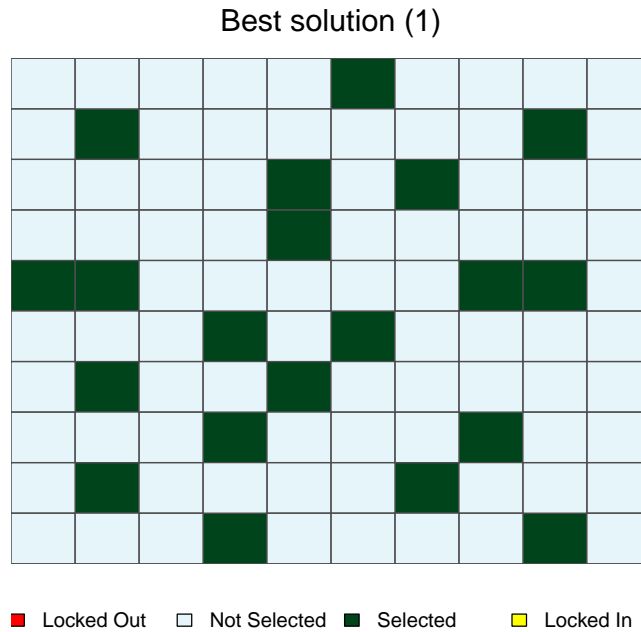
```
## Warning for adding variables: zero or small (< 1e-13) coefficients, ignored
## Optimize a model with 27706 rows, 27500 columns and 109600 nonzeros
## Coefficient statistics:
##   Matrix range    [3e-04, 8e+01]
##   Objective range [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   Bounds range    [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   RHS range       [1e+00, 6e+01]
## Found heuristic solution: objective 99
## Presolve removed 1198 rows and 270 columns (presolve time = 5s) ...
## Presolve removed 1234 rows and 270 columns (presolve time = 10s) ...
## Presolve removed 1365 rows and 270 columns (presolve time = 15s) ...
## Presolve removed 1366 rows and 270 columns (presolve time = 20s) ...
## Presolve removed 1366 rows and 270 columns
## Presolve time: 22.97s
## Presolved: 26340 rows, 27230 columns, 125602 nonzeros
## Variable types: 0 continuous, 27230 integer (27230 binary)
## Presolve removed 30 rows and 0 columns
## Presolved: 26310 rows, 27230 columns, 125523 nonzeros
##
## Presolve removed 26310 rows and 27230 columns
```

```
##
## Root simplex log...
##
## Iteration      Objective      Primal Inf.      Dual Inf.      Time
##      0      1.0000000e+02      0.000000e+00      1.000000e+02      25s
##      635      6.9733251e+01      0.000000e+00      1.123230e+04      25s
##      4330      2.0000000e+01      0.000000e+00      0.000000e+00      28s
##      4330      2.0000000e+01      0.000000e+00      0.000000e+00      28s
##
## Root relaxation: objective 2.000000e+01, 4330 iterations, 5.03 seconds
##
##      Nodes      |      Current Node      |      Objective Bounds      |      Work
## Expl Unexpl | Obj Depth IntInf | Incumbent      BestBd      Gap | It/Node Time
##
##      0      0      20.00000      0      364      99.00000      20.00000      79.8%      -      30s
## H      0      0                      22.0000000      20.00000      9.09%      -      30s
## H      0      0                      20.0000000      20.00000      0.00%      -      30s
##
## Explored 0 nodes (7172 simplex iterations) in 30.97 seconds
## Thread count was 1 (of 2 available processors)
##
## Optimal solution found (tolerance 5.00e-02)
## Best objective 2.0000000000000e+01, best bound 2.0000000000000e+01, gap 0.0%
## species = 0; space = 0; tss = 412.5; spaceheld = 27.25; prop = 0.933939
## species = 1; space = 0; tss = 111.252; spaceheld = 12.9016; prop = 0.884032
## species = 2; space = 0; tss = 221.892; spaceheld = 14.5032; prop = 0.934639
```

```
# show summary
summary(sim_mrs_space2)
```

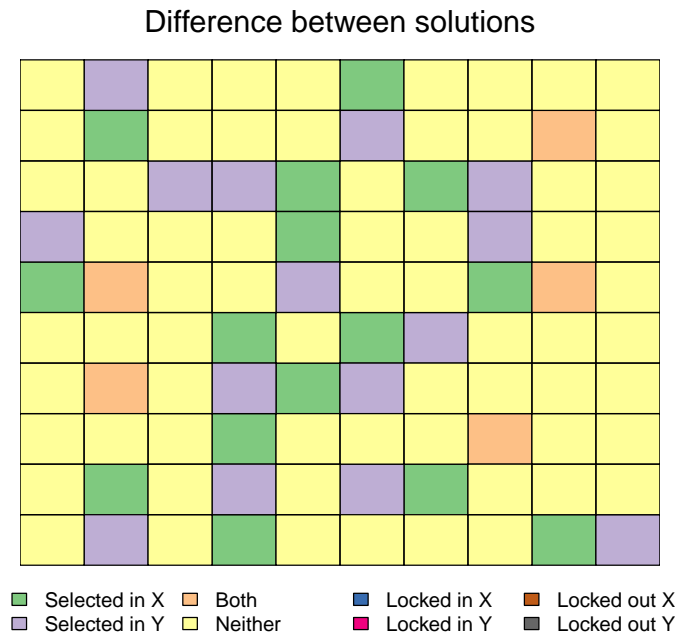
```
##      Run_Number  Status Score Cost Planning_Units Connectivity_Total
## 1      1 OPTIMAL      20      20      20      220
##      Connectivity_In Connectivity_Edge Connectivity_Out
## 1      7      143      70
##      Connectivity_In_Fraction
## 1      0.03181818
```

```
# plot prioritisation
plot(sim_mrs_space2, 1)
```



**Figure 15** A multi-species prioritisation for the uniformly, normally, and bimodally distributed species generated using amount-based targets (20%) and space-based targets (85%). This prioritisation was generated to be robust against low occupancy probabilities, by preventing planning units with low probabilities from being used to represent demand points. See Figure 12 caption for conventions.

```
# difference between prioritisations that use and do not use thresholds
plot(sim_mrs_space2, sim_mrs_space, 1, 1, main='Difference between solutions')
```



**Figure 16** Difference between two multi-species prioritisations. See Figure 7 caption for conventions.

But this method requires setting somewhat arbitrary thresholds. A more robust solution to this issue is to actually use the probability that species occupy planning units to generate the prioritisations. This is what the reliable formulation does. First we will try and generate a solution using existing targets and the reliable formulation. To reduce computational time, we will set the maximum backup  $R$ -level to 1.

```
# make new prioritisation using reliable formulation
sim_mrs_space3 <- try(update(sim_mrs_space, formulation='reliable', max.r.level=1L))

## Warning for adding variables: zero or small (< 1e-13) coefficients, ignored
## Optimize a model with 364206 rows, 181900 columns and 3847200 nonzeros
## Coefficient statistics:
##   Matrix range      [6e-05, 1e+02]
##   Objective range   [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   Bounds range      [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   RHS range         [7e-03, 6e+01]
## Presolve removed 349813 rows and 90706 columns
## Presolve time: 4.70s
##
## Explored 0 nodes (0 simplex iterations) in 7.93 seconds
## Thread count was 1 (of 2 available processors)
##
## Model is infeasible
## Best objective -, best bound -, gap -
## Try setting lower space-based targets.
## Below are the maximum targets for each species and space.
##   Proportion      Target
## 1   -1.97000 uniform (Space 1)
## 2  -12.67570  normal (Space 1)
## 3  -21.69092 bimodal (Space 1)
```

However, this fails. The reason why we cannot generate a prioritisation is because we require more planning units to generate a solution that fulfills the targets when we consider probabilities. This is confirmed by the negative maximum targets shown in the error message. Now, we will set lower targets and generate solution.

```
# make new prioritisation using reliable formulation and reduced targets
sim_mrs_space3 <- update(
  sim_mrs_space,
  formulation='reliable',
  max.r.level=1L,
  space.target=-25
)
```

```
## Warning for adding variables: zero or small (< 1e-13) coefficients, ignored
## Optimize a model with 364206 rows, 181900 columns and 3847200 nonzeros
## Coefficient statistics:
```

```

## Matrix range [6e-05, 1e+02]
## Objective range [1e+00, 1e+00]
## Bounds range [1e+00, 1e+00]
## RHS range [7e-03, 1e+04]
## Presolve removed 333501 rows and 90800 columns (presolve time = 5s) ...
## Presolve removed 333701 rows and 151600 columns (presolve time = 10s) ...
## Presolve removed 333701 rows and 151600 columns (presolve time = 108s) ...
## Presolve removed 333701 rows and 151600 columns (presolve time = 110s) ...
## Presolve removed 333701 rows and 151600 columns
## Presolve time: 111.44s
## Presolved: 30505 rows, 30300 columns, 129690 nonzeros
## Variable types: 200 continuous, 30100 integer (30100 binary)
## Found heuristic solution: objective 64.0000000
## Presolved: 30505 rows, 30300 columns, 129690 nonzeros
##
## Presolve removed 30103 rows and 11814 columns
##
## Root simplex log...
##
## Iteration Objective Primal Inf. Dual Inf. Time
## 0 0.0000000e+00 2.865759e+01 5.535568e+08 116s
## 177 2.0000000e+01 0.000000e+00 0.000000e+00 116s
## 177 2.0000000e+01 0.000000e+00 0.000000e+00 116s
##
## Root relaxation: objective 2.000000e+01, 177 iterations, 1.31 seconds
##
## Nodes | Current Node | Objective Bounds | Work
## Expl Unexpl | Obj Depth IntInf | Incumbent BestBd Gap | It/Node Time
##
## * 0 0 0 20.0000000 20.00000 0.00% - 115s
##
## Explored 0 nodes (179 simplex iterations) in 116.10 seconds
## Thread count was 1 (of 2 available processors)
##
## Optimal solution found (tolerance 5.00e-02)
## Best objective 2.000000000000e+01, best bound 2.000000000000e+01, gap 0.0%

## Warning in validityMethod(object): object@space.held contains values less
## than 0, some species are really poorly represented

```

```

# show summary
summary(sim_mrs_space3)

```

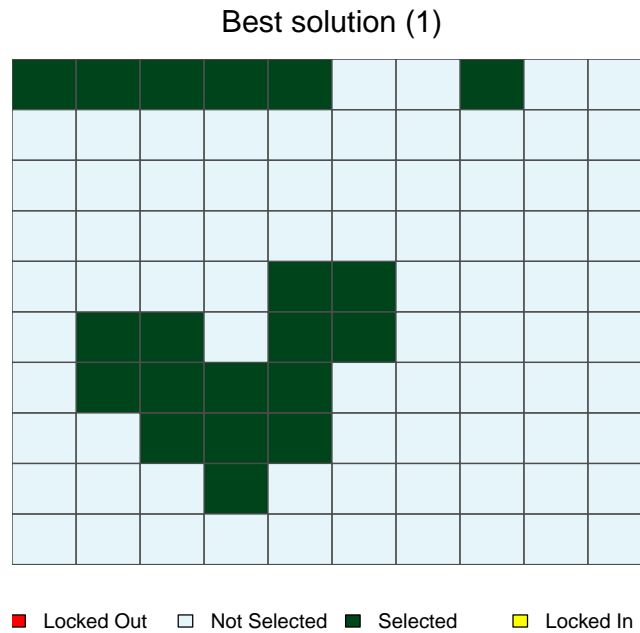
```

## Run_Number Status Score Cost Planning_Units Connectivity_Total
## 1 1 OPTIMAL 20 20 20 220
## Connectivity_In Connectivity_Edge Connectivity_Out
## 1 28 161 31

```

```
## Connectivity_In_Fraction
## 1 0.1272727
```

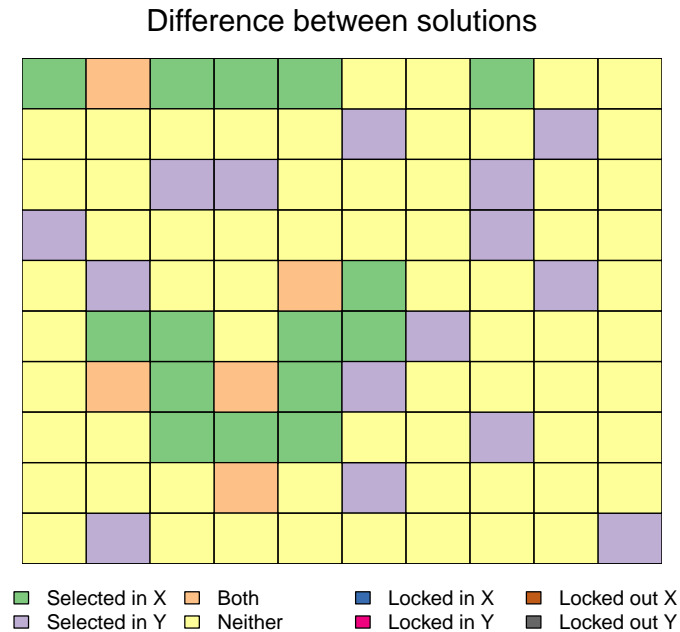
```
# plot prioritisation
plot(sim_mrs_space3, 1)
```



**Figure 17** A multi-species prioritisation for the uniformly, normally, and bimodally distributed species generated using amount-based targets (20%) and space-based targets (85%). This prioritisation was generated to be robust against low occupancy probabilities, by explicitly using the probability of occupancy data when deriving a solution. See Figure 12 caption for conventions.

```
# difference between prioritisations based on unreliable and reliable formulation
plot(sim_mrs_space3, sim_mrs_space, 1, 1, main='Difference between solutions')
```





**Figure 18** Difference between two multi-species prioritisations. See Figure 7 caption for conventions.

An additional planning unit was selected using the reliable formulation. The prioritisation based on the unreliable formulation had 20 planning units, but the prioritisation based on the reliable formulation has 20 planning units. This difference occurs because the reliable formulation needs to ensure that all selected planning units with a low chance of being occupied have a suitable backup planning unit. While the reliable formulation can deliver more robust prioritisations, it takes much longer to solve conservation planning problems expressed using this formulation than the unreliable formulation. As a consequence, the reliable formulation is only feasible for particularly small problems, such as those involving few features and less than several hundred planning units.

### Fragmentation

Fragmentation is an important consideration in real-world planning situations. Up until now, we haven't considered the effects of fragmentation on the viability of the prioritisation. As a consequence, our prioritisations have tended to contain planning units without any neighbours. We can use the BLM parameter to penalise fragmented solutions.

Let's generate a new prioritisation that heavily penalises fragmentation. Here, we will update the `sim_mrs_amount` object with BLM of 100.

```
# update prioritisation
sim_mrs_amount_blm <- update(sim_mrs_amount, BLM=100)
```

```
## Warning for adding variables: zero or small (< 1e-13) coefficients, ignored
## Optimize a model with 30666 rows, 30280 columns and 120720 nonzeros
## Coefficient statistics:
##   Matrix range    [6e-05, 8e+01]
##   Objective range [1e+02, 4e+02]
```

```

## Bounds range      [1e+00, 1e+00]
## RHS range         [1e+00, 4e+02]
## Found heuristic solution: objective 4299
## Presolve removed 0 rows and 0 columns (presolve time = 5s) ...
## Presolve time: 5.99s
## Presolved: 30666 rows, 30280 columns, 120720 nonzeros
## Variable types: 0 continuous, 30280 integer (30280 binary)
## Presolved: 30666 rows, 30280 columns, 120720 nonzeros
##
## Presolve removed 30666 rows and 30280 columns
##
## Root simplex log...
##
## Iteration      Objective      Primal Inf.      Dual Inf.      Time
##      0      2.2100000e+04      0.000000e+00      4.010000e+04      7s
##    2093      1.1941697e+03      0.000000e+00      3.921985e+05      10s
##    5768      6.4673127e+02      0.000000e+00      2.068700e+05      15s
##    7117      4.6444444e+02      0.000000e+00      0.000000e+00      18s
##    7117      4.6444444e+02      0.000000e+00      0.000000e+00      18s
##
## Root relaxation: objective 4.644444e+02, 7117 iterations, 12.27 seconds
##
##      Nodes      |      Current Node      |      Objective Bounds      |      Work
##  Expl Unexpl |  Obj  Depth IntInf | Incumbent      BestBd      Gap | It/Node Time
##
##      0      0  464.44444      0 1725  4299.00000  464.44444  89.2%      -   18s
## H      0      0                      1953.0000000  464.44444  76.2%      -   45s
##      0      0  523.81679      0 1561  1953.00000  523.81679  73.2%      -   48s
##      0      0  523.81679      0 1560  1953.00000  523.81679  73.2%      -   49s
##      0      0  571.01549      0 1811  1953.00000  571.01549  70.8%      -   51s
##      0      0  571.01549      0 1827  1953.00000  571.01549  70.8%      -   52s
##      0      0  571.01549      0 1832  1953.00000  571.01549  70.8%      -   54s
##      0      0  571.01549      0 1831  1953.00000  571.01549  70.8%      -   54s
##      0      0  571.01549      0 1676  1953.00000  571.01549  70.8%      -   59s
##      0      0  571.01549      0 1684  1953.00000  571.01549  70.8%      -   60s
##      0      0  571.01549      0 1636  1953.00000  571.01549  70.8%      -   63s
##      0      0  571.01549      0 1651  1953.00000  571.01549  70.8%      -   63s
##      0      0  571.01549      0 1625  1953.00000  571.01549  70.8%      -   67s
##      0      0  571.01549      0 1631  1953.00000  571.01549  70.8%      -   68s
##      0      0  571.01549      0 1606  1953.00000  571.01549  70.8%      -   71s
##      0      0  571.01549      0 1611  1953.00000  571.01549  70.8%      -   72s
##      0      0  571.01549      0 1556  1953.00000  571.01549  70.8%      -   76s
##      0      0  571.01549      0 1559  1953.00000  571.01549  70.8%      -   76s
##      0      0  571.01549      0 1561  1953.00000  571.01549  70.8%      -   79s
##      0      0  571.01549      0 1562  1953.00000  571.01549  70.8%      -   79s
##      0      0  571.01549      0 1584  1953.00000  571.01549  70.8%      -   82s
##      0      0  571.01549      0 1539  1953.00000  571.01549  70.8%      -   84s
## H      0      0                      1435.0000000  571.01549  60.2%      -   97s

```

## H	0	0			1332.0000000	571.01549	57.1%	-	108s
##	0	2	572.12289	0	1506 1332.00000	572.12289	57.0%	-	108s
##	4	6	601.87668	4	1064 1332.00000	575.86532	56.8%	1811	110s
##	10	12	702.77417	10	1108 1332.00000	575.86532	56.8%	1568	116s
##	18	20	853.33333	18	930 1332.00000	575.86532	56.8%	1274	120s
## H	22	22			1227.0000000	575.86532	53.1%	1170	122s
## H	28	28			1121.0000000	575.86532	48.6%	984	126s
## *	41	33		38	1120.0000000	575.86532	48.6%	702	126s
##	49	39	713.75000	7	1290 1120.00000	585.46465	47.7%	741	131s
##	59	49	920.00000	17	954 1120.00000	585.46465	47.7%	688	135s
##	71	56	980.00000	24	587 1120.00000	585.46465	47.7%	663	140s
##	94	71	864.64286	14	1011 1120.00000	594.82736	46.9%	603	145s
##	115	84	691.48733	3	1357 1120.00000	604.26637	46.0%	581	150s
##	123	92	856.90745	11	983 1120.00000	604.26637	46.0%	608	155s
##	129	98	1002.35294	17	621 1120.00000	604.26637	46.0%	637	160s
##	140	101	695.00000	6	1519 1120.00000	613.10042	45.3%	650	165s
##	141	102	702.99776	7	1479 1120.00000	613.10042	45.3%	706	170s
##	155	116	906.11111	21	643 1120.00000	613.10042	45.3%	694	175s
##	169	123	712.59259	7	998 1120.00000	621.72786	44.5%	694	180s
##	185	139	946.47059	20	636 1120.00000	621.72786	44.5%	677	185s
##	203	152	854.16557	10	1045 1120.00000	625.00000	44.2%	671	190s
##	215	158	1020.00000	17	621 1120.00000	625.00000	44.2%	661	195s
##	238	162	750.04786	11	1008 1120.00000	641.89958	42.7%	632	201s
##	243	167	885.00000	16	986 1120.00000	641.89958	42.7%	653	205s
##	254	171	744.59580	3	1572 1120.00000	650.00000	42.0%	671	213s
##	257	174	855.18726	6	1416 1120.00000	650.00000	42.0%	671	215s
##	260	175	cutoff	9	1120.00000	650.00000	42.0%	689	222s
##	266	175	cutoff	12	1120.00000	650.00000	42.0%	690	225s
##	279	180	877.69231	13	987 1120.00000	654.29758	41.6%	687	230s
## H	289	149			1021.0000000	654.29758	35.9%	676	234s
##	297	156	1020.00000	31	2 1021.00000	654.29758	35.9%	664	235s
## H	353	149			1020.0000000	654.29758	35.9%	561	236s
##	362	153	882.50000	11	968 1020.00000	655.58472	35.7%	566	240s
##	385	169	748.90273	12	1285 1020.00000	658.46154	35.4%	556	245s
##	396	180	927.45527	23	914 1020.00000	658.46154	35.4%	562	250s
##	413	184	860.00000	11	919 1020.00000	660.85511	35.2%	563	255s
##	420	191	981.29032	15	587 1020.00000	660.85511	35.2%	579	261s
##	441	203	949.41176	15	835 1020.00000	663.02381	35.0%	566	265s
##	458	212	860.47619	12	938 1020.00000	663.90244	34.9%	565	270s
##	475	220	770.00000	11	677 1020.00000	671.06383	34.2%	557	275s
##	499	234	860.00000	6	1571 1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	549	281s
##	511	245	834.28571	16	1539 1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	547	305s
##	513	246	691.48733	4	1725 1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	545	346s
##	514	247	920.00000	15	1642 1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	544	351s
##	516	248	842.44898	15	1500 1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	542	376s
##	518	250	1001.81818	17	1555 1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	540	383s
##	519	250	898.94737	16	1594 1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	539	385s
##	520	251	882.50000	12	1486 1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	538	396s

##	522	252	737.39130	10	1562	1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	536	403s
##	523	253	853.33333	14	1576	1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	535	407s
##	524	254	943.40426	15	1571	1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	534	411s
##	525	254	898.12500	17	1532	1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	533	415s
##	526	255	717.89474	10	1483	1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	532	426s
##	528	256	705.00031	4	1439	1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	530	438s
##	529	257	834.28571	16	1445	1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	529	441s
##	530	258	743.34999	8	1472	1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	528	449s
##	531	258	834.28571	16	1483	1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	527	451s
##	533	260	691.48733	4	1444	1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	525	456s
##	534	260	920.00000	15	1444	1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	524	463s
##	535	263	678.06452	15	1329	1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	692	471s
##	538	265	804.93743	16	1480	1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	701	475s
##	542	268	893.07553	18	1497	1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	717	480s
##	548	269	966.15385	21	494	1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	729	485s
##	561	266	715.71544	18	1442	1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	729	490s
##	563	268	758.61850	19	1629	1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	747	499s
##	564	268	801.05630	19	1346	1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	748	500s
##	570	272	910.90909	22	648	1020.00000	678.06452	33.5%	761	507s
## *	571	254		23		920.0000000	678.06452	26.3%	761	508s
##	574	252	cutoff	23		920.00000	678.06452	26.3%	767	511s
##	580	250	784.96446	17	1564	920.00000	689.31692	25.1%	768	515s
##	582	251	827.74784	18	1391	920.00000	689.31692	25.1%	780	520s
##	586	253	882.80157	20	1600	920.00000	689.31692	25.1%	788	525s
##	595	249	872.26193	19	1052	920.00000	691.34181	24.9%	794	530s
##	607	249	826.25000	20	597	920.00000	710.96046	22.7%	802	539s
##	608	250	857.37717	21	1229	920.00000	710.96046	22.7%	812	543s
##	609	249	897.77778	21	577	920.00000	710.96046	22.7%	812	545s
##	612	248	892.72727	22	569	920.00000	710.96046	22.7%	817	551s
##	615	247	cutoff	24		920.00000	710.96046	22.7%	824	555s
##	622	248	790.00000	20	941	920.00000	715.05609	22.3%	830	561s
##	626	250	853.33333	22	640	920.00000	715.05609	22.3%	830	567s
##	627	249	916.55172	23	612	920.00000	715.05609	22.3%	832	570s
##	633	247	788.41438	18	1248	920.00000	731.83346	20.5%	834	575s
##	642	245	903.78378	20	810	920.00000	731.83346	20.5%	834	580s
##	658	240	827.58226	19	1348	920.00000	732.65856	20.4%	825	585s
##	666	239	887.87539	22	835	920.00000	732.65856	20.4%	826	590s
##	678	235	893.33333	21	743	920.00000	782.77632	14.9%	828	596s
##	719	223	916.31963	62	264	920.00000	782.77632	14.9%	788	600s
##	730	219	892.72727	23	609	920.00000	801.98120	12.8%	790	605s
##	732	218	840.82613	20	1367	920.00000	805.11605	12.5%	794	610s
##	785	200	905.24590	72	1322	920.00000	805.11605	12.5%	749	615s
##	873	170	846.90005	17	1307	920.00000	805.53064	12.4%	681	620s
##	880	167	828.68077	17	1337	920.00000	808.16731	12.2%	681	635s
##	888	163	cutoff	22		920.00000	808.16731	12.2%	688	640s
##	909	157	918.12293	38	2347	920.00000	812.30628	11.7%	686	651s
##	913	154	902.92683	21	946	920.00000	818.45124	11.0%	688	656s
##	938	146	855.51165	18	1421	920.00000	819.16697	11.0%	674	660s

```

##      944      142  912.93231      19 1426  920.00000  824.46334  10.4%   677  665s
##      955      137  853.33333      19  882  920.00000  828.87080  9.91%   680  670s
##      961      133  853.33333      21  581  920.00000  832.50000  9.51%   684  678s
##      962      133  904.61538      22  581  920.00000  832.50000  9.51%   686  683s
##      981      126  838.60465      20  901  920.00000  838.18182  8.89%   676  686s
##      991      123  870.00000      20  887  920.00000  843.52941  8.31%   675  690s
##     1000      117  867.82609      21  644  920.00000  850.43478  7.56%   682  697s
##     1001      117  906.36364      22  612  920.00000  850.43478  7.56%   684  702s
##     1008      113  912.00000      22  479  920.00000  853.33333  7.25%   682  705s
##     1031      103  875.17241      22 1298  920.00000  853.33333  7.25%   672  710s
##     1049       95  876.40770      19 1731  920.00000  862.02517  6.30%   667  715s
##     1053       93  909.22095      22  777  920.00000  862.02517  6.30%   671  720s
##     1102       77  909.22095      71  674  920.00000  862.02517  6.30%   646  725s
##     1129       68  899.15360      23  794  920.00000  870.00000  5.43%   637  730s
##
## Cutting planes:
##   Gomory: 11
##   Zero half: 69
##
## Explored 1157 nodes (809290 simplex iterations) in 733.75 seconds
## Thread count was 1 (of 2 available processors)
##
## Optimal solution found (tolerance 5.00e-02)
## Best objective 9.200000000000e+02, best bound 8.780000000000e+02, gap 4.5652%
## species = 0; space = 0; tss = 412.5; spaceheld = 225; prop = 0.454545
## species = 1; space = 0; tss = 111.252; spaceheld = 60.9957; prop = 0.451733
## species = 2; space = 0; tss = 221.892; spaceheld = 76.7822; prop = 0.653967

```

```

# show summary of prioritisation
summary(sim_mrs_amount_blm)

```

```

##   Run_Number  Status Score Cost Planning_Units Connectivity_Total
## 1           1 OPTIMAL   920   20              20              220
## Connectivity_In Connectivity_Edge Connectivity_Out
## 1              35              171              14
## Connectivity_In_Fraction
## 1              0.1590909

```

```

# show amount held for each prioritisation
amount.held(sim_mrs_amount_blm)

```

```

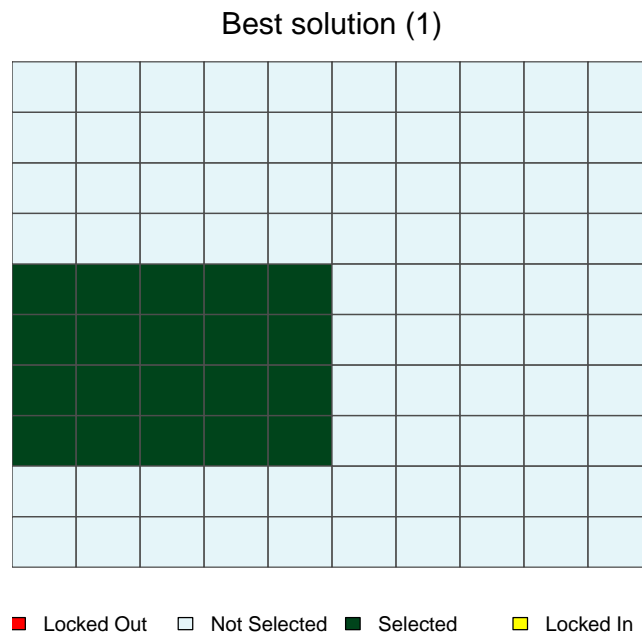
##   uniform    normal    bimodal
## 1      0.2 0.2645832 0.3911267

```

```
# show space held for each prioritisation
space.held(sim_mrs_amount_blm)
```

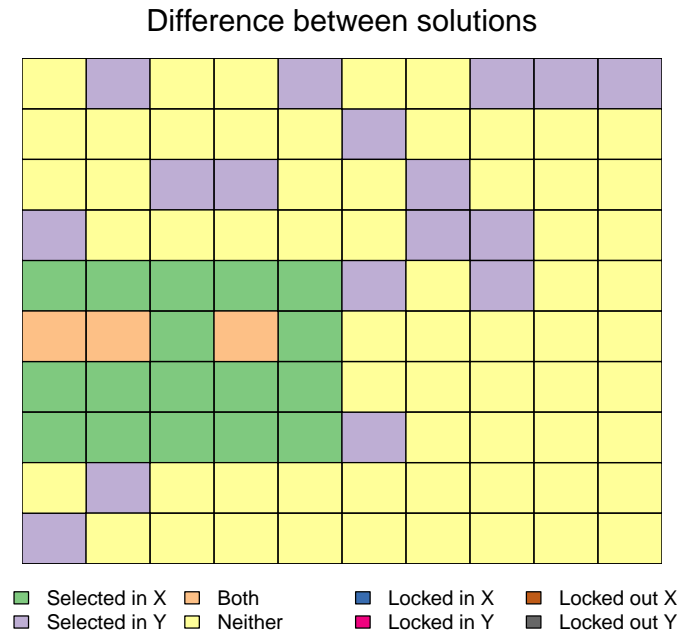
```
##    uniform (Space 1) normal (Space 1) bimodal (Space 1)
## 1          0.4545455      0.4517326      0.6539667
```

```
# plot prioritisation
plot(sim_mrs_amount_blm, 1)
```



**Figure 19** A multi-species prioritisation for the uniformly, normally, and bimodally distributed species generated using only amount-based targets (20%). Additionally, this prioritisation was specified to have high connectivity, by using a high *BLM* parameter. See Figure 12 caption for conventions.

```
# difference between the two prioritisations
plot(sim_mrs_amount_blm, sim_mrs_amount, 1, 1, main='Difference between solutions')
```



**Figure 20** Difference between two multi-species prioritisations. See Figure 7 caption for conventions.

Here we can see that the prioritisation generated using a BLM parameter of 100 is much more clustered than the prioritisation generated using a BLM of 0. In practice, conservation planners will need to try a variety of BLM parameters to find a suitable prioritisation.

## Complex simulated species

### Data

In the previous examples, we have only used Euclidean distances to determine how much of an attribute space is sampled by a prioritisation. However, Euclidean distances can be poor measures of distance for multivariate, binary, or correlated variables (Faith *et al.* 1987). As a consequence this may lead to over- or under-estimates of the quality of a given solution.

The **rapr** R package provides a suite of distance metrics that can be used to calculate spatial representation (see `?AttributeSpace` for available metrics and their equations). To illustrate how using different distance metrics can affect the optimal solution, we will generate a new suite of prioritisations using different distance metrics.

First, we will simulate a new species and a three-dimensional attribute space. Note that unlike the previous examples, the attribute space will not be geographic space. Rather, each dimension in the attribute space will have values that map onto geographic space (eg. like climatic variables across the landscape). To add further complexity, we simulate their distributions using Gaussian processes.

```
# set seed for simulations
set.seed(500)

## simulate planning units
```

```

sim_pus <- sim.pus(25L)

# simulate species
sim_gspp <- sim.species(sim_pus, model=RPgauss(), n=1, res=0.1)

# simulate space
sim_gspace <- sim.space(sim_pus, model=RMgauss(scale=3), d=3, res=0.1)

```

```
## ...
```

```

# increment simulated space values by 100 so there are no negative values
# so we can investigate all distance metrics
sim_gspace <- sim_gspace + 100

```

```

# generate RapUnsolved object containing data to generate prioritisations
sim_ru_gp <- rap(
  sim_pus, sim_gspp, sim_gspace,
  amount.target=0.2, space.target=0.85,
  n.demand.points=50L, kernel.method='hypervolume',
  include.geographic.space=FALSE, scale=FALSE, solve=FALSE
)

```

```

## Choosing repsperpoint=1500 (use a larger value for more accuracy.)
## Evaluating probability density...
## Building tree... done.
## Querying tree... 2.33918e-06  0.0233942  0.046786  0.0701778  0.0935696  0.116961  0.140353
## Finished evaluating probability density.
## Beginning volume calculation... done.
## Quantile requested: 0.20   obtained: 0.20

```

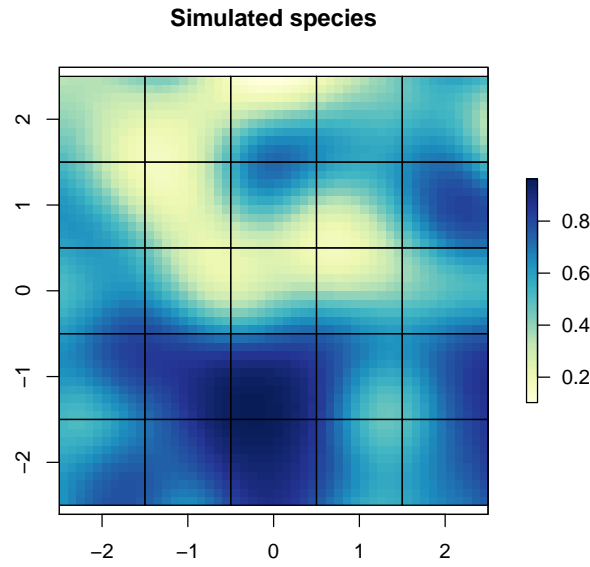
Let's visualise the species' distribution and the distribution of the attribute space across geographic space.

```

# plot species distribution
plot(
  sim_gspp,
  main='Simulated species',
  col=colorRampPalette(c("#FFFFD9", "#EDF8B1", "#C7E9B4", "#7FCDBB",
    "#41B6C4", "#1D91C0", "#225EA8", "#253494", "#081D58"
  ))(100)
)
lines(sim_pus)

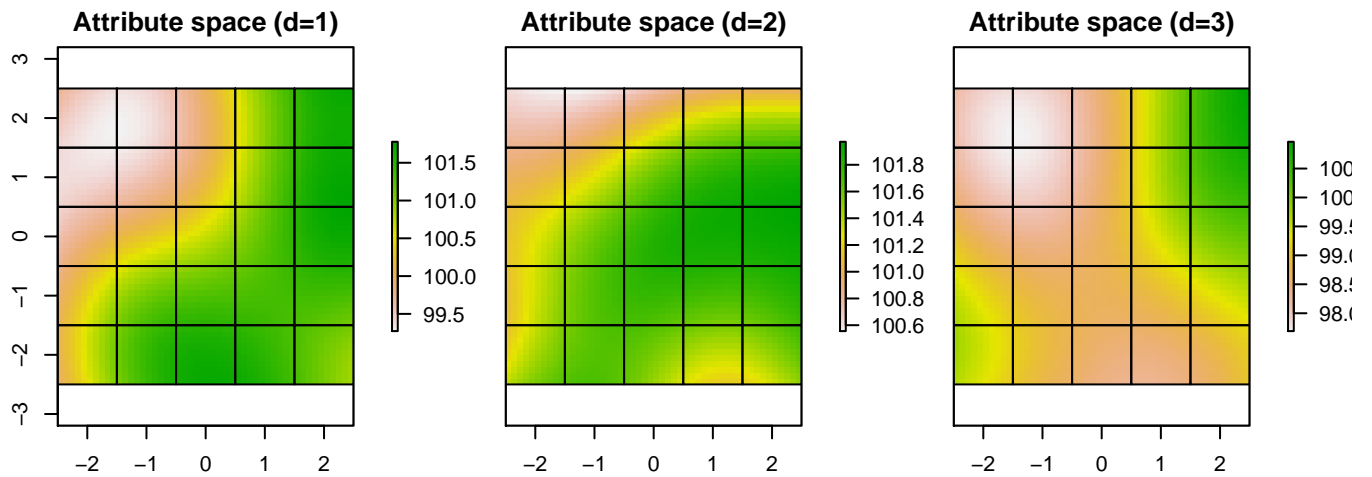
```





**Figure 21** Distribution map of a species simulated using Gaussian processes. See Figure 2 caption for conventions.

```
# plot distribution of each dimension in the attribute space across geographic space
plot(
  sim_gspace,
  main=c('Attribute space (d=1)', 'Attribute space (d=2)', 'Attribute space (d=3)'),
  addfun=function(){lines(sim_pus)},
  nc=3
)
```



**Figure 22** Distribution of spatial variables across the species' geographic range. These variables each represent a dimension of a three-dimensional attribute space.

## Distance metrics

For each different distance metric, we will update the `sim_gru` object with the new distance metric, solve it, and store the solution in a list.

```
# create vector with distance metrics
dist.metrics <- c(
  'euclidean', 'bray', 'manhattan', 'gower',
  'canberra', 'mahalanobis',
  'jaccard', 'kulczynski'
)

# generate solutions
solutions <- list()
for (i in dist.metrics) {
  solutions[[i]] <- update(sim_ru_gp, distance.metric=i)
}
```

```
## Optimize a model with 1302 rows, 1275 columns and 5025 nonzeros
## Coefficient statistics:
##   Matrix range      [3e-01, 3e+04]
##   Objective range   [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   Bounds range      [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   RHS range         [1e+00, 5e+03]
## Presolve removed 248 rows and 143 columns
## Presolve time: 0.13s
## Presolved: 1054 rows, 1132 columns, 5329 nonzeros
## Variable types: 0 continuous, 1132 integer (1132 binary)
## Found heuristic solution: objective 19.0000000
## Presolved: 1054 rows, 1132 columns, 5329 nonzeros
##
## Presolve removed 1054 rows and 1132 columns
##
## Root relaxation: objective 4.583726e+00, 701 iterations, 0.04 seconds
##
##      Nodes      |      Current Node      |      Objective Bounds      |      Work
##  Expl Unexpl |  Obj  Depth IntInf | Incumbent    BestBd   Gap | It/Node Time
##
##      0       0   4.58373    0   69   19.00000    4.58373  75.9%   -    0s
## H      0       0                5.0000000    4.58373  8.33%   -    0s
##
## Explored 0 nodes (701 simplex iterations) in 0.21 seconds
## Thread count was 1 (of 2 available processors)
##
## Optimal solution found (tolerance 5.00e-02)
## Best objective 5.000000000000e+00, best bound 5.000000000000e+00, gap 0.0%
## species = 0; space = 0; tss = 35677.7; spaceheld = 4843.09; prop = 0.864254
## Optimize a model with 1302 rows, 1275 columns and 5025 nonzeros
```

```

## Coefficient statistics:
##   Matrix range      [8e-06, 1e+00]
##   Objective range   [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   Bounds range      [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   RHS range         [4e-02, 3e+00]
## Presolve removed 185 rows and 134 columns
## Presolve time: 0.21s
## Presolved: 1117 rows, 1141 columns, 5590 nonzeros
## Variable types: 0 continuous, 1141 integer (1141 binary)
## Found heuristic solution: objective 19.0000000
## Presolve removed 22 rows and 0 columns
## Presolved: 1095 rows, 1141 columns, 5479 nonzeros
##
## Presolve removed 493 rows and 91 columns
##
## Root relaxation: objective 4.419702e+00, 718 iterations, 0.05 seconds
##
##      Nodes      |      Current Node      |      Objective Bounds      |      Work
##  Expl Unexpl |  Obj  Depth IntInf | Incumbent    BestBd    Gap | It/Node Time
##
##      0      0   4.41970    0  43   19.00000    4.41970  76.7%   -    0s
## H      0      0                   5.0000000    4.41970  11.6%   -    0s
##
## Explored 0 nodes (718 simplex iterations) in 0.30 seconds
## Thread count was 1 (of 2 available processors)
##
## Optimal solution found (tolerance 5.00e-02)
## Best objective 5.000000000000e+00, best bound 5.000000000000e+00, gap 0.0%
## species = 0; space = 0; tss = 0.234702; spaceheld = 0.0285727; prop = 0.87826
## Optimize a model with 1302 rows, 1275 columns and 5025 nonzeros
## Coefficient statistics:
##   Matrix range      [3e-01, 9e+04]
##   Objective range   [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   Bounds range      [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   RHS range         [1e+00, 1e+04]
## Presolve removed 236 rows and 134 columns
## Presolve time: 0.14s
## Presolved: 1066 rows, 1141 columns, 5541 nonzeros
## Variable types: 0 continuous, 1141 integer (1141 binary)
## Found heuristic solution: objective 19.0000000
## Found heuristic solution: objective 18.0000000
## Presolved: 1066 rows, 1141 columns, 5541 nonzeros
##
## Presolve removed 1066 rows and 1141 columns
##
## Root relaxation: objective 4.422638e+00, 738 iterations, 0.04 seconds
##
##      Nodes      |      Current Node      |      Objective Bounds      |      Work

```

```

## Expl Unexpl | Obj Depth IntInf | Incumbent BestBd Gap | It/Node Time
##
##      0      0      4.42264      0      43      18.00000      4.42264      75.4%      -      0s
## H      0      0                                5.0000000      4.42264      11.5%      -      0s
##
## Explored 0 nodes (738 simplex iterations) in 0.21 seconds
## Thread count was 1 (of 2 available processors)
##
## Optimal solution found (tolerance 5.00e-02)
## Best objective 5.000000000000e+00, best bound 5.000000000000e+00, gap 0.0%
## species = 0; space = 0; tss = 84916.6; spaceheld = 11791.3; prop = 0.861143
## Optimize a model with 1302 rows, 1275 columns and 5025 nonzeros
## Coefficient statistics:
##   Matrix range      [5e-02, 1e+03]
##   Objective range   [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   Bounds range      [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   RHS range         [1e+00, 2e+02]
## Presolve removed 223 rows and 123 columns
## Presolve time: 0.15s
## Presolved: 1079 rows, 1152 columns, 5990 nonzeros
## Variable types: 0 continuous, 1152 integer (1152 binary)
## Found heuristic solution: objective 18.0000000
## Presolved: 1079 rows, 1152 columns, 5990 nonzeros
##
## Presolve removed 1079 rows and 1152 columns
##
## Root relaxation: objective 4.300502e+00, 706 iterations, 0.04 seconds
##
##      Nodes      |      Current Node      |      Objective Bounds      |      Work
## Expl Unexpl | Obj Depth IntInf | Incumbent BestBd Gap | It/Node Time
##
##      0      0      4.30050      0      70      18.00000      4.30050      76.1%      -      0s
## H      0      0                                5.0000000      4.30050      14.0%      -      0s
##
## Explored 0 nodes (706 simplex iterations) in 0.23 seconds
## Thread count was 1 (of 2 available processors)
##
## Optimal solution found (tolerance 5.00e-02)
## Best objective 5.000000000000e+00, best bound 5.000000000000e+00, gap 0.0%
## species = 0; space = 0; tss = 1279.62; spaceheld = 159.335; prop = 0.875483
## Optimize a model with 1302 rows, 1275 columns and 5025 nonzeros
## Coefficient statistics:
##   Matrix range      [7e-05, 2e+00]
##   Objective range   [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   Bounds range      [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   RHS range         [3e-01, 3e+00]
## Presolve removed 230 rows and 134 columns
## Presolve time: 0.14s

```

```

## Presolved: 1072 rows, 1141 columns, 5485 nonzeros
## Variable types: 0 continuous, 1141 integer (1141 binary)
## Found heuristic solution: objective 19.0000000
## Presolve removed 3 rows and 0 columns
## Presolved: 1069 rows, 1141 columns, 5465 nonzeros
##
## Presolve removed 1042 rows and 626 columns
##
## Root relaxation: objective 4.428373e+00, 571 iterations, 0.04 seconds
##
##      Nodes      |      Current Node      |      Objective Bounds      |      Work
##  Expl Unexpl |  Obj  Depth IntInf | Incumbent    BestBd   Gap | It/Node Time
##
##      0      0   4.42837    0  43   19.00000    4.42837  76.7%   -    0s
## H      0      0                               5.0000000    4.42837  11.4%   -    0s
##
## Explored 0 nodes (571 simplex iterations) in 0.22 seconds
## Thread count was 1 (of 2 available processors)
##
## Optimal solution found (tolerance 5.00e-02)
## Best objective 5.000000000000e+00, best bound 5.000000000000e+00, gap 0.0%
## species = 0; space = 0; tss = 2.11471; spaceheld = 0.294522; prop = 0.860727
## Optimize a model with 1302 rows, 1275 columns and 5025 nonzeros
## Coefficient statistics:
##   Matrix range    [3e-01, 5e+04]
##   Objective range [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   Bounds range    [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   RHS range       [1e+00, 9e+03]
## Presolve removed 415 rows and 381 columns
## Presolve time: 0.12s
## Presolved: 887 rows, 894 columns, 6274 nonzeros
## Variable types: 0 continuous, 894 integer (894 binary)
## Found heuristic solution: objective 21.0000000
## Presolve removed 13 rows and 0 columns
## Presolved: 874 rows, 894 columns, 6203 nonzeros
##
## Presolve removed 874 rows and 894 columns
##
## Root relaxation: objective 9.752283e+00, 244 iterations, 0.03 seconds
##
##      Nodes      |      Current Node      |      Objective Bounds      |      Work
##  Expl Unexpl |  Obj  Depth IntInf | Incumbent    BestBd   Gap | It/Node Time
##
##      0      0   9.75228    0  23   21.00000    9.75228  53.6%   -    0s
## H      0      0                               10.0000000    9.75228  2.48%   -    0s
##
## Explored 0 nodes (244 simplex iterations) in 0.18 seconds
## Thread count was 1 (of 2 available processors)

```

```

##
## Optimal solution found (tolerance 5.00e-02)
## Best objective 1.000000000000e+01, best bound 1.000000000000e+01, gap 0.0%
## species = 0; space = 0; tss = 60475.3; spaceheld = 8960.37; prop = 0.851834
## Optimize a model with 1302 rows, 1275 columns and 5025 nonzeros
## Coefficient statistics:
##   Matrix range      [3e-05, 1e+00]
##   Objective range   [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   Bounds range      [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   RHS range         [1e-01, 3e+00]
## Presolve removed 207 rows and 134 columns
## Presolve time: 0.18s
## Presolved: 1095 rows, 1141 columns, 5597 nonzeros
## Variable types: 0 continuous, 1141 integer (1141 binary)
## Found heuristic solution: objective 19.0000000
## Presolve removed 13 rows and 0 columns
## Presolved: 1082 rows, 1141 columns, 5516 nonzeros
##
## Presolve removed 833 rows and 282 columns
##
## Root relaxation: objective 4.429824e+00, 591 iterations, 0.04 seconds
##
##      Nodes      |      Current Node      |      Objective Bounds      |      Work
##  Expl Unexpl |  Obj  Depth IntInf | Incumbent    BestBd    Gap | It/Node Time
##
##      0      0      4.42982      0   43   19.000000    4.42982   76.7%   -    0s
## H      0      0                      17.0000000    4.42982   73.9%   -    0s
## H      0      0                      5.0000000    4.42982   11.4%   -    0s
##
## Explored 0 nodes (591 simplex iterations) in 0.27 seconds
## Thread count was 1 (of 2 available processors)
##
## Optimal solution found (tolerance 5.00e-02)
## Best objective 5.000000000000e+00, best bound 5.000000000000e+00, gap 0.0%
## species = 0; space = 0; tss = 0.931362; spaceheld = 0.129782; prop = 0.860654
## Optimize a model with 1302 rows, 1275 columns and 5025 nonzeros
## Coefficient statistics:
##   Matrix range      [8e-06, 1e+00]
##   Objective range   [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   Bounds range      [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   RHS range         [3e-02, 3e+00]
## Presolve removed 184 rows and 134 columns
## Presolve time: 0.21s
## Presolved: 1118 rows, 1141 columns, 5819 nonzeros
## Variable types: 0 continuous, 1141 integer (1141 binary)
## Found heuristic solution: objective 19.0000000
## Presolve removed 16 rows and 0 columns
## Presolved: 1102 rows, 1141 columns, 5735 nonzeros

```

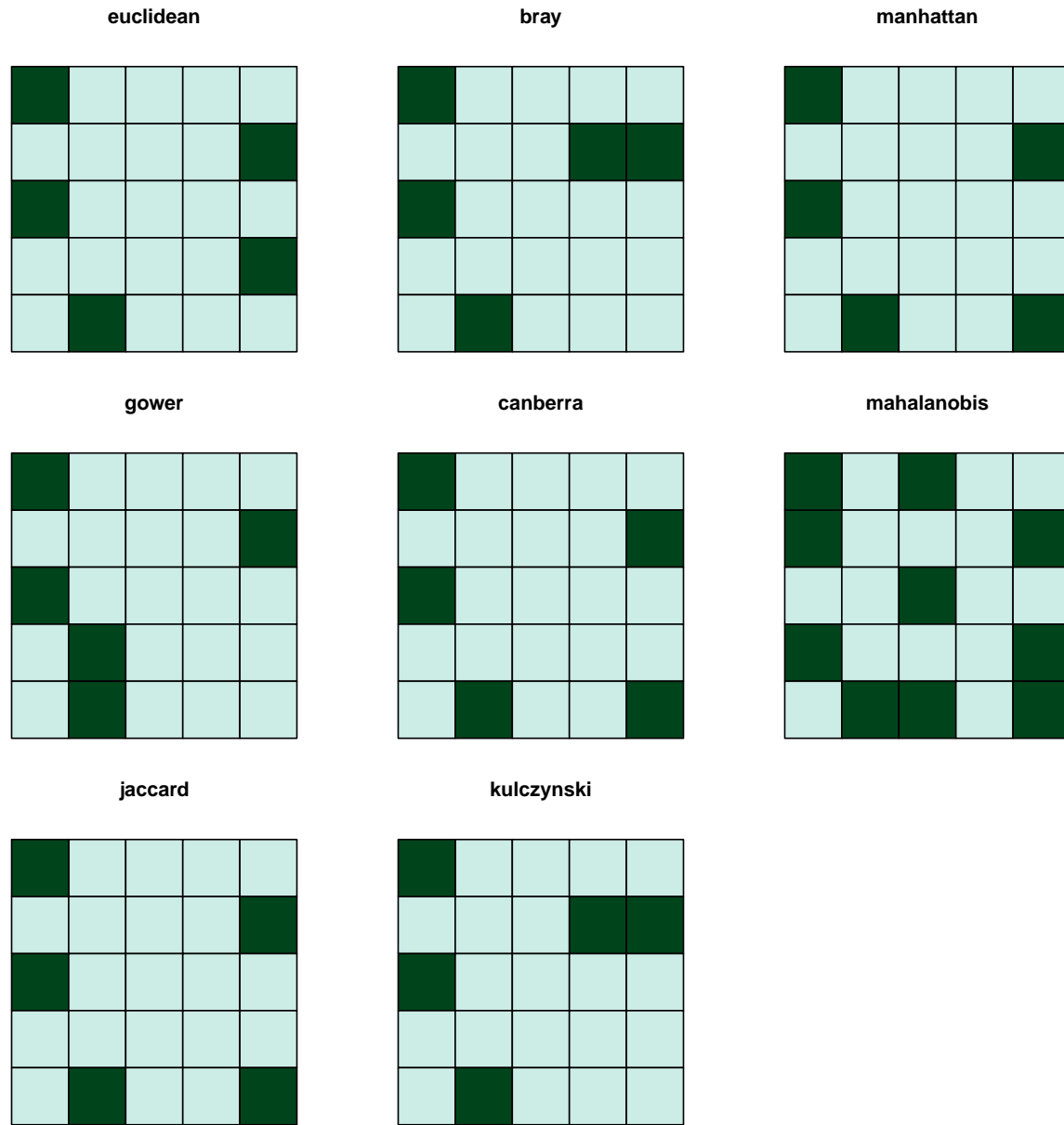
```
##
## Presolve removed 443 rows and 91 columns
##
## Root relaxation: objective 4.432050e+00, 692 iterations, 0.05 seconds
##
##      Nodes      |      Current Node      |      Objective Bounds      |      Work
##  Expl Unexpl |  Obj  Depth IntInf | Incumbent    BestBd   Gap | It/Node Time
##
##      0      0   4.43205    0   43   19.00000    4.43205  76.7%   -    0s
## H      0      0                   5.0000000    4.43205  11.4%   -    0s
##
## Explored 0 nodes (692 simplex iterations) in 0.30 seconds
## Thread count was 1 (of 2 available processors)
##
## Optimal solution found (tolerance 5.00e-02)
## Best objective 5.000000000000e+00, best bound 5.000000000000e+00, gap 0.0%
## species = 0; space = 0; tss = 0.232971; spaceheld = 0.0285369; prop = 0.877509
```

Now, let's plot the solutions to see how they differ.

```
# set plotting window
par(mfrow=c(3,3), mar=c(0, 0, 4.1, 0))

## create plots showing the selected planning units (dark green)
for (i in seq_along(solutions)) {
  # plot i'th solution
  plot(
    sim_pus,
    main=dist.metrics[i],
    col=replace(
      rep('#ccee6',nrow(sim_pus@data)),
      which(selections(solutions[[i]])==1),
      '#00441b'
    ),
    axes=FALSE
  )
}

# reset plotting window
par(mfrow=c(1,1), mar=c(5.1, 4.1, 4.1, 2.1))
```



**Figure 23** Prioritisations generated using different distance metrics. See Figure 12 for conventions.

It appears that main difference between the solutions is which planning units get selected in the bottom section of the study area. Some solutions tend to select a lot of planning units in this region (eg. Euclidean, Gower, and Manhattan), whereas others select fewer planning units (eg. Bray-Curtis, Jaccard, and Kulczynski). Conservation planners should think carefully which distance metric is most appropriate for their attribute spaces. See the discussion section below for guidelines on selecting an appropriate distance metric.



## Case-study examples

### Overview

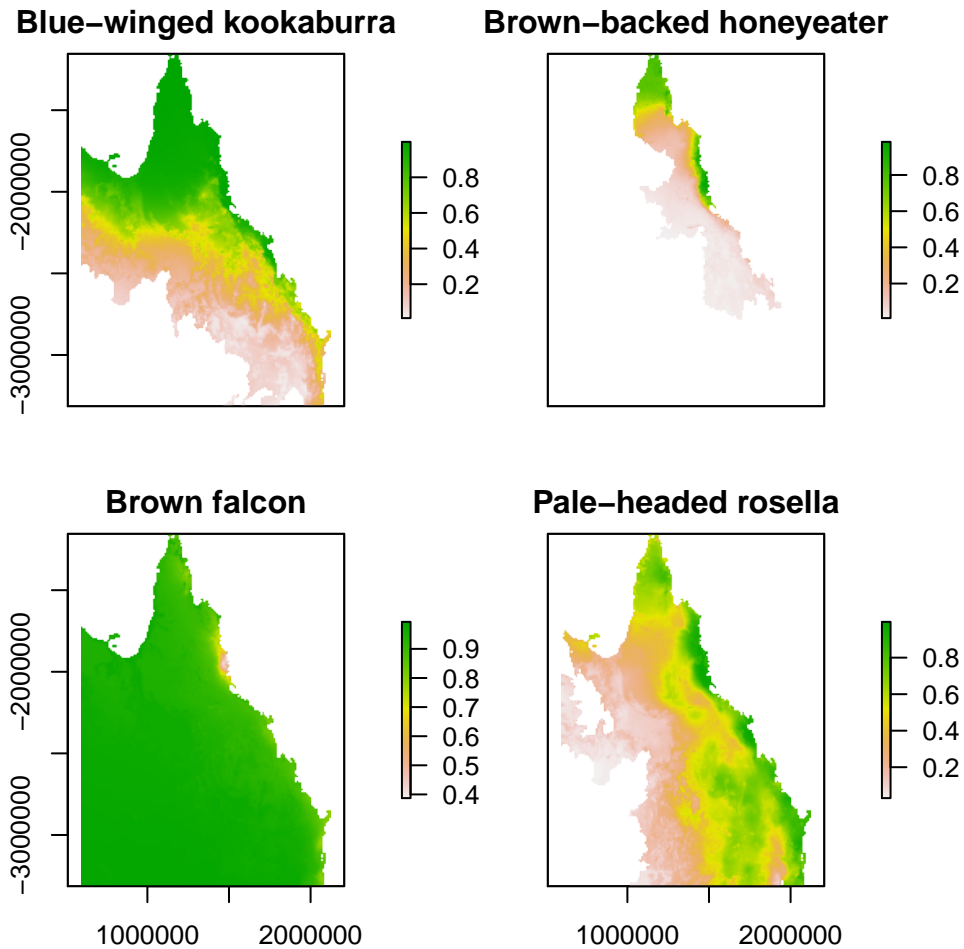
Here we will investigate how space-based targets can affect prioritisations using a more realistic dataset. We will generate prioritisations for the four bird species– [blue-winged kookaburra](#), [brown-backed honeyeater](#), [brown falcon](#), [pale-headed rosella](#)–in Queensland, Australia. This region contains a broad range of different habitats–such as rainforests, woodlands, and deserts–making it ideal for this tutorial. First, we will generate a typical amount-based prioritisation that aims to capture 20% of the species’ distributions. Then we will generate a prioritisation that also aims to secure populations in representative parts of the species’ distributions in terms of their geographic location and their environmental heterogeneity. To do this we will generate a prioritisation using 20% amount-based targets and 85% space-based targets. Finally, we will compare these prioritisations to Australia’s existing protected network.

### Data

Survey data for the species were obtained from [BirdLife Australia](#). The survey data was rarefied using a 100km<sup>2</sup> grid, wherein the survey with the greatest number of repeat visits in each grid cell was chosen. To model the distribution of each species, environmental data were obtained at survey location (site). Specifically, [climatic data](#) (bio1, bio4, bio15, bio16, bio17) and [classifications of the vegetation at the site](#) were used. Occupancy-detection models (MacKenzie *et al.* 2002) were fit using Stan (Stan Development Team 2015) using manually tuned parameters (adapt deta=0.9, maximum treedepth=20, chains=4 , warmup iterations=1000, total iterations=1500) with five-fold cross-validation. In each replicate, data were partitioned into training and test sites. A full model was fit using quadratic terms for environmental variables in the site-component, and an intercept in the detection-component of the model. The full model was then subject to a step-wise backwards term deletion routine. Terms were retained when their inclusion resulted in a model with a greater area under the curve (AUC) value as calculated using the test data. Maps were generated for each species as an average of the predictions from the best model in each best replicate. To further improve the accuracy of these maps, areas well outside of the species’ known distributions were set to 0. For each species, this was achieved by masking out [biogeographic regions](#) where the species was not observed, and regions that did not have a neighbouring planning unit where the species was observed. The maps were then resampled (10km<sup>2</sup> resolution) and cropped to the study area. The resulting maps are stored in the `cs_spp` object.

```
# load data
data(cs_spp)

# plot species' distributions
plot(cs_spp, main=c(
  "Blue-winged kookaburra", "Brown-backed honeyeater",
  "Brown falcon", "Pale-headed rosella"
))
```



**Figure 24** Distribution map for four Australian bird species. Pixel colours denote probability of occupancy.

Planning units ( $50\text{km}^2$  resolution) were generated across Australia, and then clipped to the [Queensland state borders and coastline](#). Note that we are using excessively coarse planning units so that our examples will complete relatively quickly. In a real-world planning exercise, we would use much finer planning units. To compare our prioritisations to [Queensland's existing protected area network](#), this network was intersected with the planning units. Planning units with more than 50% of their area inside a protected area had their status set to 2 (following [conventions in Marxan](#)). Since we do not have cost data, the prioritisations will aim to select the minimum number of planning units required to meet the targets. The planning units are stored in the `cs_pu` object.

```
# load data
data(cs_pus)

## plot planning units
# convert SpatialPolygons to PolySet for quick plotting
cs_pus2 <- SpatialPolygons2PolySet(cs_pus)

# create vector of colours for planning units
```

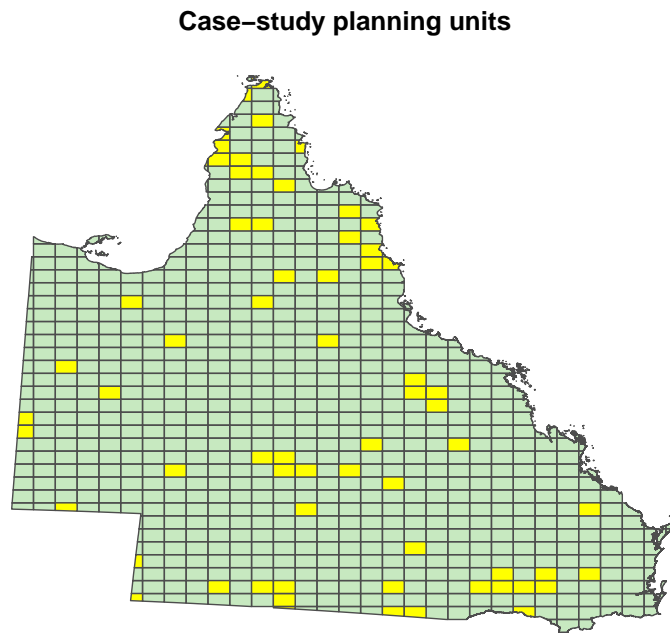
```

# + light green: units not already inside reserve
# + yellow: units already inside reserve
cs_pus_cols <- rep('#c7e9c0', nrow(cs_pus@data))
cs_pus_cols[which(cs_pus$status==2)] <- 'yellow'

# set plotting window
par(mar=c(0.1, 0.1, 4.1, 0.1))

# plot polygons
PBSmapping::plotPolys(
  cs_pus2, col=cs_pus_cols, border='gray30',
  xlab='', ylab='', axes=FALSE,
  main='Case-study planning units'
)

```



**Figure 25** Planning units for the case-study examples. Yellow polygons represent planning units with more than 50% of their area already in existing reserves.

```

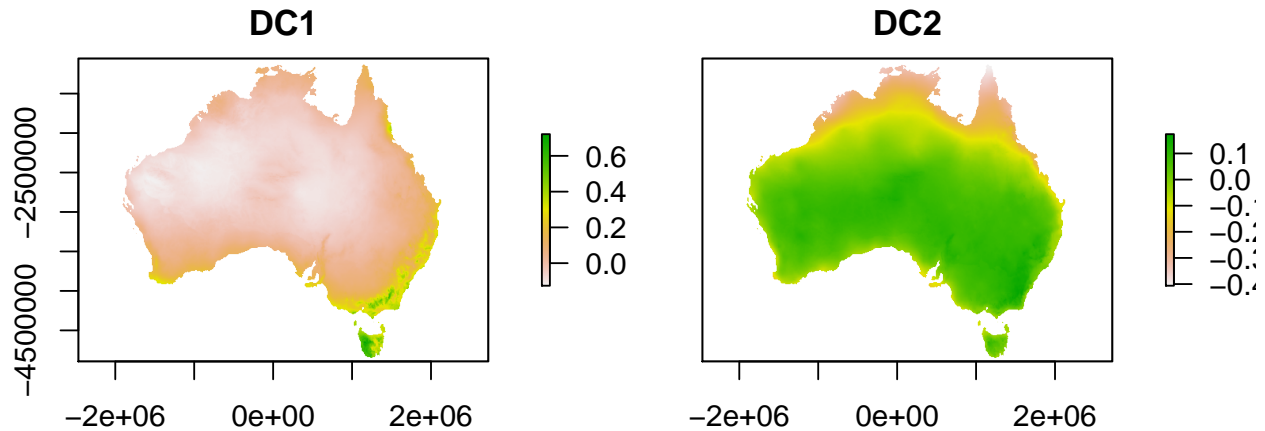
# reset plotting window
par(mar=c(5.1, 4.1, 4.1, 2.1))

```

To map the distribution of environmental conditions across the species' range, 21 [bioclimatic layers](#) were obtained. These layers were cropped to Australia and subject to [detrended correspondence analysis](#) to produce two new variables. These layers are stored in the `cs_space` object.

```
# load data
data(cs_space)

# plot variables
plot(cs_space, main=c('DC1', 'DC2'))
```



**Figure 26** Broad-scale environmental variation across Australia. The variable DC1 describes the transition from wet and cool to dry and hot conditions. The variable DC2 describes the transition from wet and hot to dry and cool conditions.

### Effectiveness of Australia's reserve network compared to optimal prioritisations

To simplify the process of formatting data and generating prioritisations, we can use the `rap` function. First, we will generate an amount-based prioritisation that aims to capture 20% of the rosella's range. We will use 50 demand points to map the geographic and environmental spaces. **Be warned, the examples hereafter can take 5-10 minutes to run.**

```
# make amount-based prioritisation,
# and ignore existing protected areas by discarding values in the
# status (third) column of the attribute table
cs_rs_amount <- rap(
  cs_pus[, -2], cs_spp, cs_space,
  amount.target=0.2, space.target=NA, n.demand.points=50L,
  include.geographic.space=TRUE, formulation='unreliable',
  solve=FALSE
)
```

```
## Warning in (function (pus, species, spaces = NULL, amount.target = 0.2, :
## argument to pus does not have a 'status' column, creating default with all
## status=0L
```

```
# threshold probabilities to 0.1 for space calculations
cs_rs_amount <- prob.subset(cs_rs_amount, species=1:4, threshold=rep(0.1,4))
```

```
# generate prioritisation
```

```
cs_rs_amount <- solve(cs_rs_amount)
```

```
## Optimize a model with 4 rows, 762 columns and 2001 nonzeros
## Coefficient statistics:
##   Matrix range      [3e+02, 2e+04]
##   Objective range   [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   Bounds range      [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   RHS range         [2e+05, 3e+06]
## Found heuristic solution: objective 176
## Presolve time: 0.01s
## Presolved: 4 rows, 762 columns, 2001 nonzeros
## Variable types: 0 continuous, 762 integer (762 binary)
## Presolved: 4 rows, 762 columns, 2001 nonzeros
##
##
## Root relaxation: objective 1.359167e+02, 832 iterations, 0.01 seconds
##
##      Nodes      |      Current Node      |      Objective Bounds      |      Work
##  Expl Unexpl |  Obj  Depth IntInf | Incumbent    BestBd   Gap | It/Node Time
##
##      0      0 135.91668    0    4 176.00000  135.91668  22.8%   -    0s
## H      0      0                      136.0000000  135.91668  0.06%   -    0s
##
## Explored 0 nodes (832 simplex iterations) in 0.03 seconds
## Thread count was 1 (of 2 available processors)
##
## Optimal solution found (tolerance 5.00e-02)
## Best objective 1.360000000000e+02, best bound 1.360000000000e+02, gap 0.0%
## species = 0; space = 0; tss = 0.00515932; spaceheld = 0.00153775; prop = 0.701946
## species = 0; space = 1; tss = 0.706739; spaceheld = 0.316627; prop = 0.551988
## species = 1; space = 0; tss = 0.0183623; spaceheld = 0.0152704; prop = 0.16838
## species = 1; space = 1; tss = 0.767747; spaceheld = 1.57318; prop = -1.04909
## species = 2; space = 0; tss = 0.0719167; spaceheld = 0.000755429; prop = 0.989496
## species = 2; space = 1; tss = 0.664411; spaceheld = 0.0931804; prop = 0.859755
## species = 3; space = 0; tss = 0.0226796; spaceheld = 0.000790625; prop = 0.965139
## species = 3; space = 1; tss = 0.596714; spaceheld = 0.0853009; prop = 0.857049

## Warning in validityMethod(object): object@space.held contains values less
## than 0, some species are really poorly represented
```

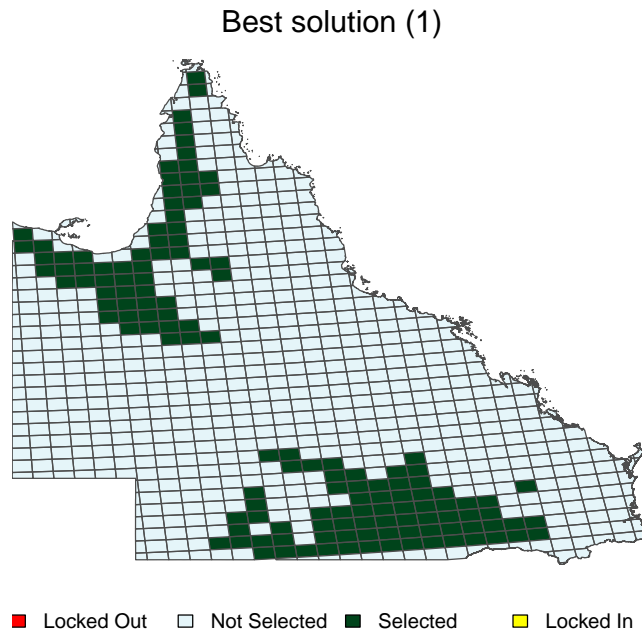
```
# show summary
```

```
summary(cs_rs_amount)
```

```
##   Run_Number  Status Score Cost Planning_Units Connectivity_Total
## 1           1 OPTIMAL   136   136              136          98882414
```

```
## Connectivity_In Connectivity_Edge Connectivity_Out
## 1          9636021          81120163          8126230
## Connectivity_In_Fraction
## 1          0.09744929
```

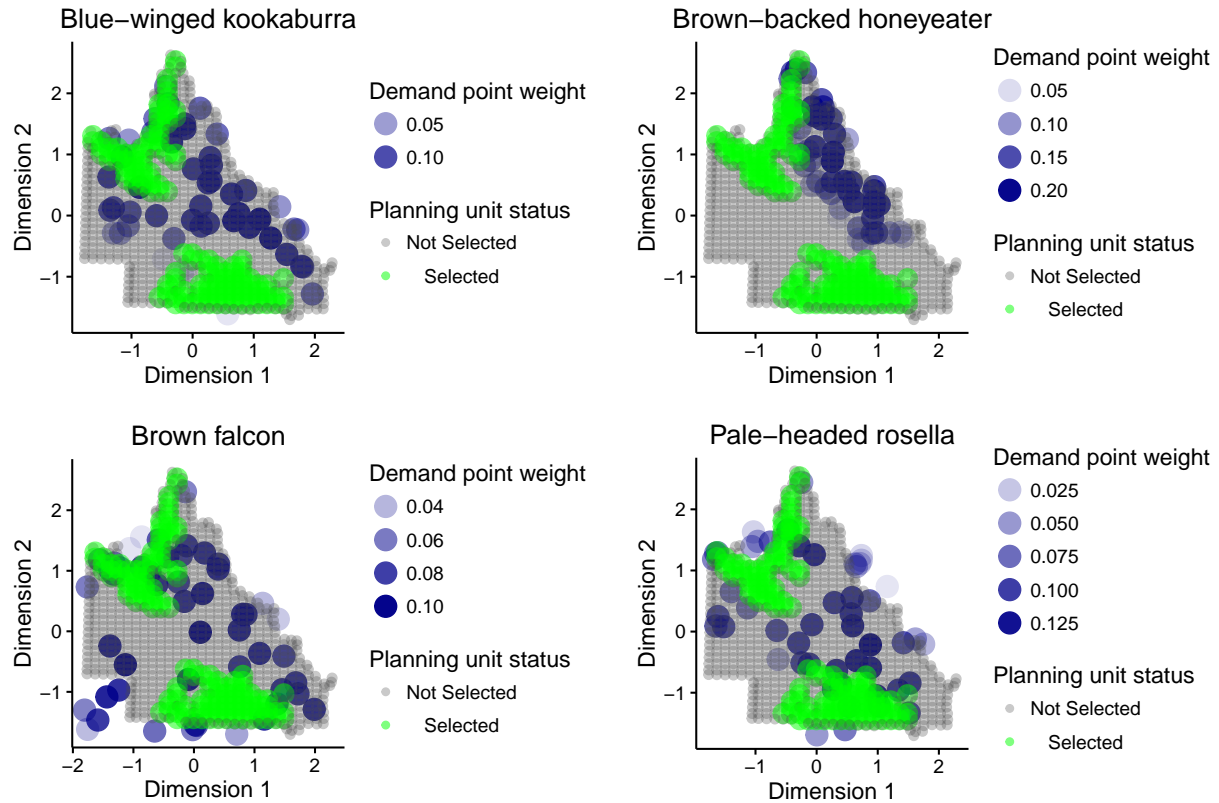
```
# plot prioritisation
plot(cs_rs_amount, 1)
```



**Figure 27** Multi-species prioritisation generated for four bird species using amount-based targets (20%). See Figure 12 captions for conventions.

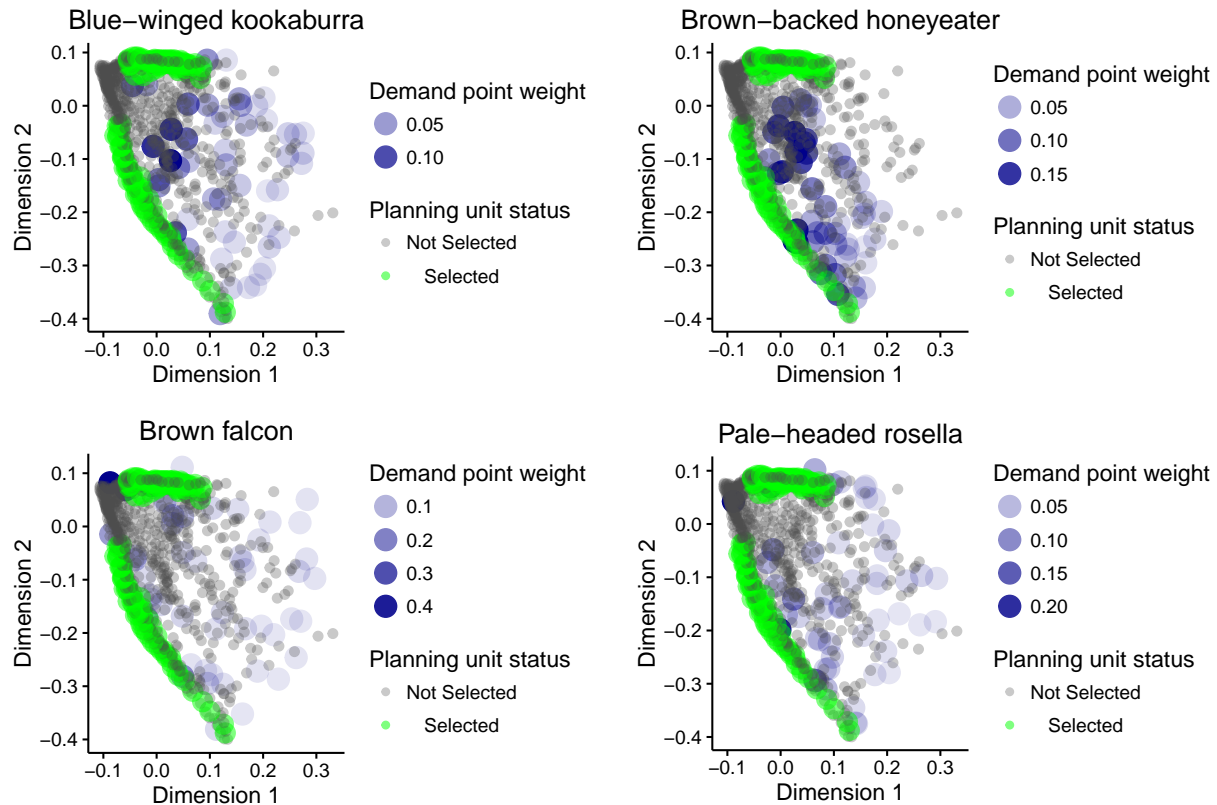
We can also see how well the prioritisation secures the species' distributions in the geographic and environmental attribute spaces.

```
# plot prioritisation in geographic attribute space
p1 <- space.plot(cs_rs_amount, 1, 2, main='Blue-winged kookaburra')
p2 <- space.plot(cs_rs_amount, 2, 2, main='Brown-backed honeyeater')
p3 <- space.plot(cs_rs_amount, 3, 2, main='Brown falcon')
p4 <- space.plot(cs_rs_amount, 4, 2, main='Pale-headed rosella')
gridExtra::grid.arrange(p1, p2, p3, p4, ncol=2)
```



**Figure 28** Distribution of amount-based prioritisation in the geographic attribute space. Points denote combinations of environmental conditions. Green and grey points represent planning unit selected for and not selected for prioritisation (respectively). Blue points denote demand points, and their size indicates their weighting.

```
# plot prioritisation in environmental attribute space
p1 <- space.plot(cs_rs_amount, 1, 1, main='Blue-winged kookaburra')
p2 <- space.plot(cs_rs_amount, 2, 1, main='Brown-backed honeyeater')
p3 <- space.plot(cs_rs_amount, 3, 1, main='Brown falcon')
p4 <- space.plot(cs_rs_amount, 4, 1, main='Pale-headed rosella')
gridExtra::grid.arrange(p1, p2, p3, p4, ncol=2)
```



**Figure 29** Distribution of amount-based prioritisation in the environmental attribute space. See Figure 28 caption for conventions.

Next, let's generate a prioritisation using amount- and space-based targets. This prioritisation will secure 50% of the species distribution in geographic and environmental space.

```
# make amount- and space-based prioritisation
cs_rs_space <- update(cs_rs_amount, space.target=0.5)

## Optimize a model with 200512 rows, 200862 columns and 802401 nonzeros
## Coefficient statistics:
##   Matrix range   [2e-11, 2e+04]
##   Objective range [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   Bounds range   [1e+00, 1e+00]
##   RHS range      [3e-03, 3e+06]
## Warning: Model contains large matrix coefficient range
##   Consider reformulating model or setting NumericFocus parameter
##   to avoid numerical issues.
## Presolve removed 525 rows and 493 columns (presolve time = 5s) ...
## Presolve removed 566 rows and 493 columns (presolve time = 10s) ...
## Presolve removed 629 rows and 493 columns (presolve time = 15s) ...
## Presolve removed 657 rows and 493 columns (presolve time = 20s) ...
## Presolve removed 736 rows and 493 columns (presolve time = 25s) ...
```



```

## Presolve removed 786 rows and 493 columns (presolve time = 30s) ...
## Presolve removed 819 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 35s) ...
## Presolve removed 819 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 40s) ...
## Presolve removed 893 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 45s) ...
## Presolve removed 893 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 50s) ...
## Presolve removed 893 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 55s) ...
## Presolve removed 893 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 60s) ...
## Presolve removed 893 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 65s) ...
## Presolve removed 916 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 70s) ...
## Presolve removed 937 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 75s) ...
## Presolve removed 937 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 80s) ...
## Presolve removed 937 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 85s) ...
## Presolve removed 1048 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 90s) ...
## Presolve removed 1083 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 95s) ...
## Presolve removed 1114 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 100s) ...
## Presolve removed 1147 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 105s) ...
## Presolve removed 1147 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 110s) ...
## Presolve removed 1153 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 115s) ...
## Presolve removed 1153 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 120s) ...
## Presolve removed 1179 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 125s) ...
## Presolve removed 1191 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 130s) ...
## Presolve removed 1191 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 135s) ...
## Presolve removed 1191 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 141s) ...
## Presolve removed 1191 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 145s) ...
## Presolve removed 1191 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 150s) ...
## Presolve removed 1191 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 155s) ...
## Presolve removed 1191 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 160s) ...
## Presolve removed 1191 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 165s) ...
## Presolve removed 1191 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 170s) ...
## Presolve removed 1191 rows and 529 columns (presolve time = 175s) ...
## Presolve removed 1191 rows and 967 columns (presolve time = 180s) ...
## Presolve removed 1191 rows and 967 columns (presolve time = 185s) ...
## Presolve removed 1191 rows and 967 columns (presolve time = 190s) ...
## Presolve removed 1191 rows and 967 columns (presolve time = 195s) ...
## Presolve removed 1591 rows and 967 columns (presolve time = 200s) ...
## Presolve removed 1672 rows and 967 columns (presolve time = 205s) ...
## Presolve removed 1729 rows and 967 columns (presolve time = 210s) ...
## Presolve removed 1765 rows and 967 columns (presolve time = 215s) ...
## Presolve removed 1789 rows and 967 columns (presolve time = 220s) ...
## Presolve removed 1806 rows and 967 columns (presolve time = 225s) ...
## Presolve removed 1806 rows and 967 columns (presolve time = 230s) ...
## Presolve removed 1806 rows and 967 columns (presolve time = 235s) ...
## Presolve removed 1806 rows and 967 columns (presolve time = 240s) ...
## Presolve removed 1806 rows and 967 columns (presolve time = 245s) ...
## Presolve removed 1806 rows and 967 columns
## Presolve time: 247.59s
## Presolved: 198706 rows, 199895 columns, 802062 nonzeros
## Variable types: 0 continuous, 199895 integer (199895 binary)

```

```

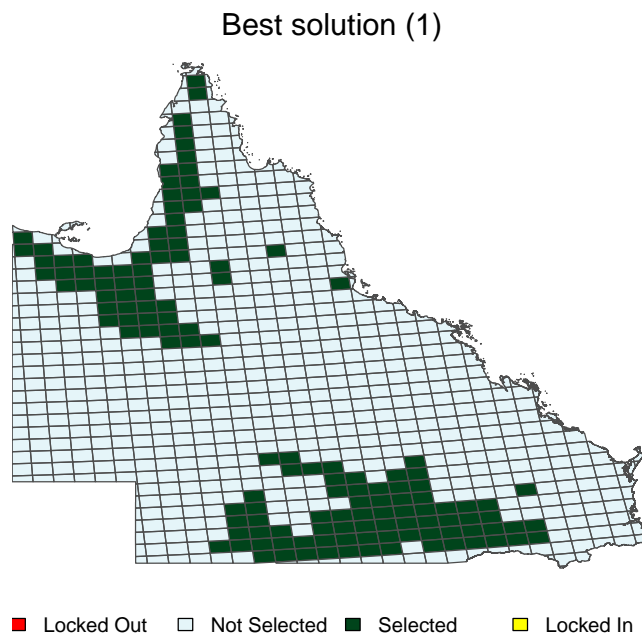
## Found heuristic solution: objective 236.0000000
## Presolve removed 246 rows and 0 columns (presolve time = 5s) ...
## Presolve removed 246 rows and 0 columns (presolve time = 10s) ...
## Presolve removed 248 rows and 0 columns (presolve time = 15s) ...
## Presolve removed 248 rows and 0 columns (presolve time = 20s) ...
## Presolve removed 248 rows and 0 columns
## Presolved: 198458 rows, 199895 columns, 801255 nonzeros
##
## Presolve removed 195493 rows and 9695 columns
##
## Root simplex log...
##
## Iteration      Objective      Primal Inf.      Dual Inf.      Time
##      0      0.0000000e+00      4.676020e+01      1.178365e+10      273s
##     5605      1.4004883e+02      0.000000e+00      1.101189e+03      275s
##     9980      1.3816674e+02      0.000000e+00      1.514380e+03      280s
##    14356      1.3756833e+02      0.000000e+00      5.895636e+03      285s
##    18487      1.3712582e+02      0.000000e+00      1.094329e+03      290s
##    23833      1.3703648e+02      0.000000e+00      5.514256e+03      295s
##    26750      1.3639401e+02      0.000000e+00      2.275635e+03      300s
##    31610      1.3608397e+02      0.000000e+00      1.250252e+02      305s
##    36470      1.3602867e+02      0.000000e+00      7.913232e+01      310s
##    40115      1.3599519e+02      0.000000e+00      1.925269e+00      315s
##    41032      1.3599204e+02      0.000000e+00      0.000000e+00      317s
##    41032      1.3599204e+02      0.000000e+00      0.000000e+00      318s
##
## Root relaxation: objective 1.359920e+02, 41032 iterations, 66.64 seconds
## Total elapsed time = 321.34s
##
##      Nodes      |      Current Node      |      Objective Bounds      |      Work
##  Expl Unexpl |  Obj  Depth IntInf | Incumbent      BestBd      Gap | It/Node Time
##
##      0      0  135.99204      0  189  236.00000  135.99204  42.4%      -  321s
## H      0      0                      137.0000000  135.99204  0.74%      -  323s
##
## Explored 0 nodes (53801 simplex iterations) in 323.66 seconds
## Thread count was 1 (of 2 available processors)
##
## Optimal solution found (tolerance 5.00e-02)
## Best objective 1.3700000000000e+02, best bound 1.3600000000000e+02, gap 0.7299%
## species = 0; space = 0; tss = 0.00515932; spaceheld = 0.00128162; prop = 0.751592
## species = 0; space = 1; tss = 0.706739; spaceheld = 0.257508; prop = 0.635639
## species = 1; space = 0; tss = 0.0183623; spaceheld = 0.00852419; prop = 0.535778
## species = 1; space = 1; tss = 0.767747; spaceheld = 0.299352; prop = 0.610091
## species = 2; space = 0; tss = 0.0719167; spaceheld = 0.00060543; prop = 0.991582
## species = 2; space = 1; tss = 0.664411; spaceheld = 0.0707986; prop = 0.893441
## species = 3; space = 0; tss = 0.0226796; spaceheld = 0.000605414; prop = 0.973306
## species = 3; space = 1; tss = 0.596714; spaceheld = 0.0485819; prop = 0.918584

```

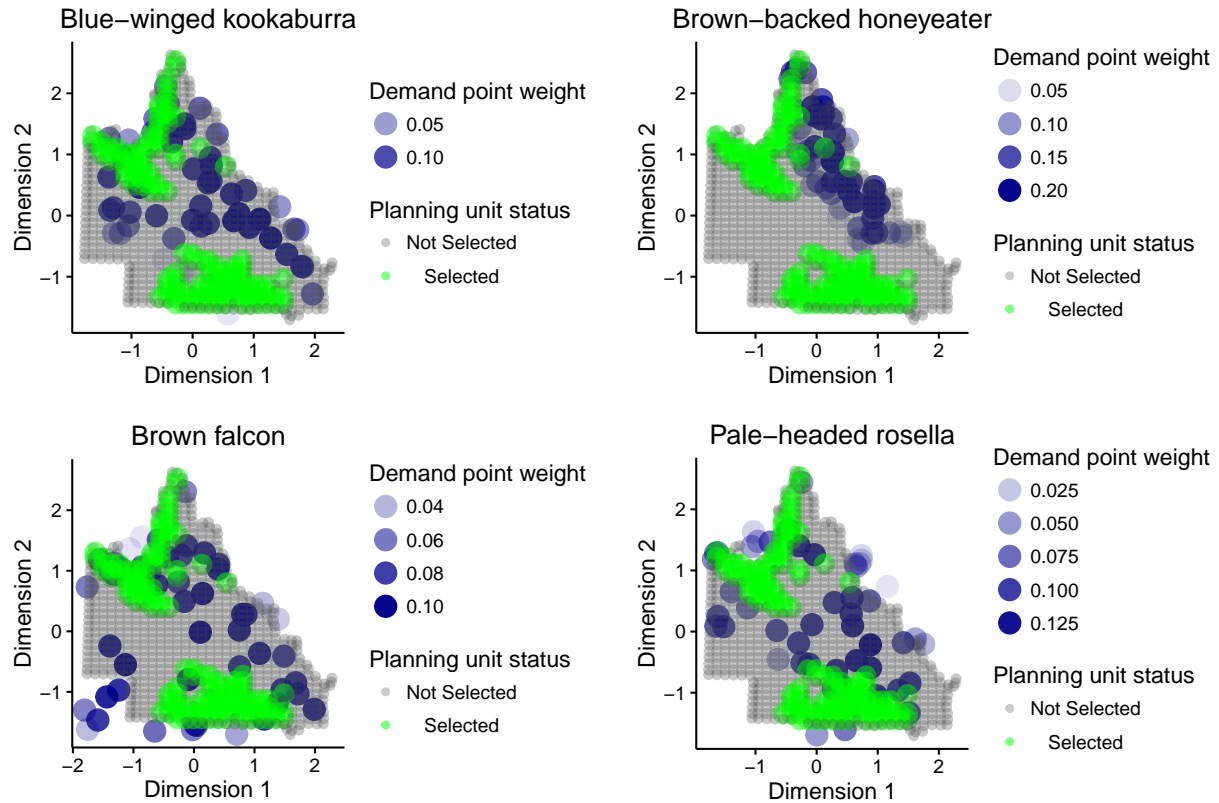
```
# show summary
summary(cs_rs_space)
```

```
## Run_Number Status Score Cost Planning_Units Connectivity_Total
## 1          1 OPTIMAL  137  137             137          98882414
## Connectivity_In Connectivity_Edge Connectivity_Out
## 1          9738090          80918598          8225726
## Connectivity_In_Fraction
## 1          0.09848151
```

```
# plot prioritisation
plot(cs_rs_space,1)
```

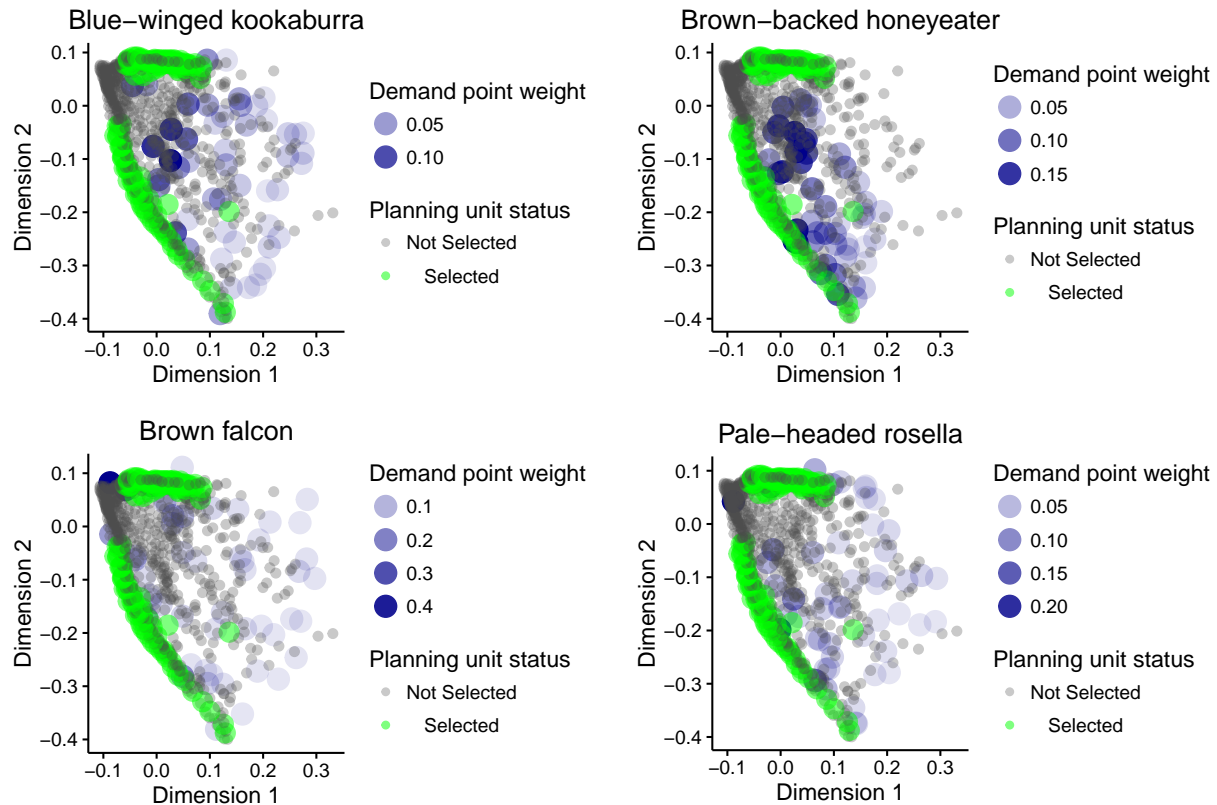


```
# plot prioritisation in geographic attribute space
p1 <- space.plot(cs_rs_space, 1, 2, main='Blue-winged kookaburra')
p2 <- space.plot(cs_rs_space, 2, 2, main='Brown-backed honeyeater')
p3 <- space.plot(cs_rs_space, 3, 2, main='Brown falcon')
p4 <- space.plot(cs_rs_space, 4, 2, main='Pale-headed rosella')
gridExtra::grid.arrange(p1, p2, p3, p4, ncol=2)
```



**Figure 30** Distribution of the amount- and space-based prioritisation in the geographic attribute space. See Figure 28 caption for conventions.

```
# plot prioritisation in environmental attribute space
p1 <- space.plot(cs_rs_space, 1, 1, main='Blue-winged kookaburra')
p2 <- space.plot(cs_rs_space, 2, 1, main='Brown-backed honeyeater')
p3 <- space.plot(cs_rs_space, 3, 1, main='Brown falcon')
p4 <- space.plot(cs_rs_space, 4, 1, main='Pale-headed rosella')
gridExtra::grid.arrange(p1, p2, p3, p4, ncol=2)
```



**Figure 31** Distribution of the amount- and space-based prioritisation in the environmental attribute space. See Figure 28 caption for conventions.

Let's compare these prioritisations with Queensland's existing protected areas system. To do this, we can create update the `cs_rs_space` with manually specified solutions to create a `RapSolved` object to represent the Queensland's reserve network.

```
# generate vector with Australia's selections
aus_selections <- which(cs_pus$status>0)

# create new object with Australia's network
cs_rs_aus <- update(cs_rs_amount, b=aus_selections)
```

```
## species = 0; space = 0; tss = 0.00515932; spaceheld = 0.000251321; prop = 0.951288
## species = 0; space = 1; tss = 0.706739; spaceheld = 0.0326189; prop = 0.953846
## species = 1; space = 0; tss = 0.0183623; spaceheld = 0.00865658; prop = 0.528567
## species = 1; space = 1; tss = 0.767747; spaceheld = 0.551532; prop = 0.281622
## species = 2; space = 0; tss = 0.0719167; spaceheld = 0.000362644; prop = 0.994957
## species = 2; space = 1; tss = 0.664411; spaceheld = 0.0235315; prop = 0.964583
## species = 3; space = 0; tss = 0.0226796; spaceheld = 0.000291323; prop = 0.987155
## species = 3; space = 1; tss = 0.596714; spaceheld = 0.0304933; prop = 0.948898
```

Now, let's plot the performance metrics for these prioritisations.

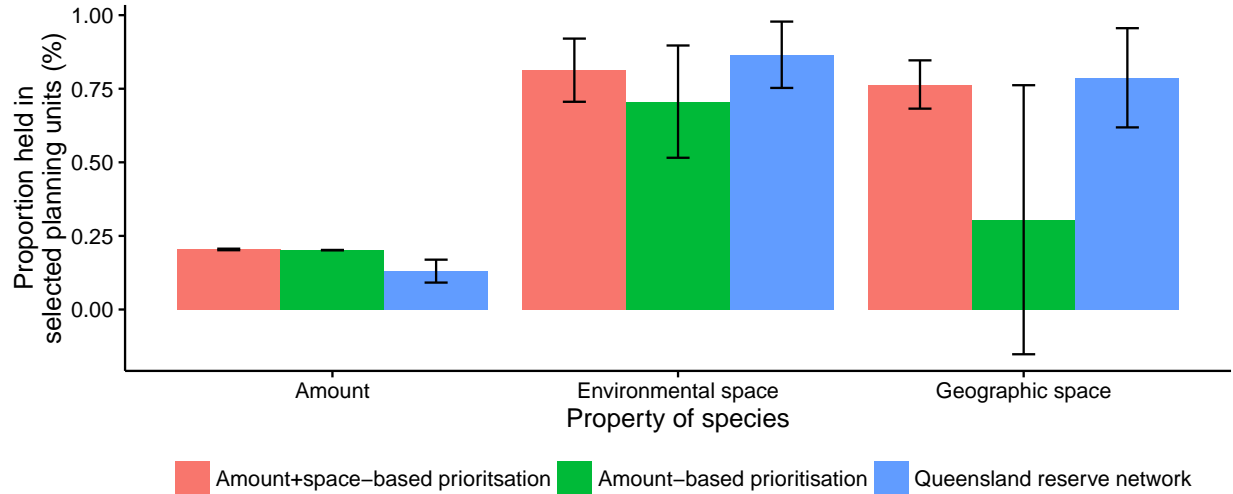
```

# define standard error function
se=function(x){sd(x,na.rm=TRUE)/sqrt(sum(!is.na(x)))}

# create a table to store the values for the 3 prioritisations
cs_results <- data.frame(
  name=rep(rep(c('Amount-based prioritisation',
    'Amount+space-based prioritisation', 'Queensland reserve network'),
    each=4),3),
  variable=rep(c('Amount', 'Geographic space', 'Environmental space'), each=12),
  species=colnames(amount.held(cs_rs_amount)),
  value=c(
    amount.held(cs_rs_amount)[1,], amount.held(cs_rs_space)[1,],
    amount.held(cs_rs_aus)[1,],
    space.held(cs_rs_amount, space=2)[1,], space.held(cs_rs_space, space=2)[1,],
    space.held(cs_rs_aus, space=2)[1,],
    space.held(cs_rs_amount, space=1)[1,], space.held(cs_rs_space, space=1)[1,],
    space.held(cs_rs_aus, space=1)[1,]
  )
) %>% group_by(
  name,
  variable
) %>% summarise(
  mean=mean(value),
  se=se(value)
)

# plot the performance metrics
ggplot(aes(x=variable, y=mean, fill=name), data=cs_results) +
  geom_bar(position=position_dodge(0.9), stat='identity') +
  geom_errorbar(
    aes(ymin=mean-se, ymax=mean+se), position=position_dodge(0.9),
    width=0.2
  ) +
  xlab('Property of species') +
  ylab('Proportion held in\nselected planning units (%)') +
  scale_fill_discrete(
    name=''
  ) +
  theme_classic() +
  theme(legend.position='bottom', legend.direction='horizontal')

```



We can see that a greater number of planning units is needed to satisfy the space-based targets. The prioritisation generated using just amount-based targets has 136 planning units, and the prioritisations using amount-based and space-based targets has 137 targets. These results suggest that prioritisations based only on amount-based targets can obtain a moderately representative sample of the species' geographic distribution and climatic niche.

## Implications and future directions

The **rapr** R package provides a unified approach to reserve selection. This R package provides a decision maker with the tools to generate prioritisations that secure an adequate amount of a representative sample of biodiversity patterns and processes. Additionally, the decision maker can accommodate uncertainty in the distribution of features, and also identify suitably connected reserves. Both the simulated and case-study species suggest that conservation planning exercises need to explicitly consider biodiversity processes during the reserve selection process.

One of the key advantages of the **rapr** R package is that it is general enough that any spatial variation could be considered an attribute space, regardless of whether this variation is intrinsic or extrinsic to the feature(s). As a consequence, in addition to biodiversity processes, this R package could be used to secure intra-specific (within feature) biodiversity patterns. For example, advances in genomic fields produced high resolution data on genetic information (eg. amplified fragment length polymorphisms (AFLPs), single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs)). By using geostatistical analysis (eg. generalised dissimilarity modelling GDMs (Ferrier et al. (2007)); gradients forests (GFs)), this data has been used to generate maps describing the spatial distribution of genomic variation within a species (Thomassen *et al.* 2010; Fitzpatrick and Keller 2015). These maps in turn could be used to construct a genomic attribute space, and in turn, could be used to generate prioritisations that secure a representative sample of genomic variation within a species. However, because the problem formulations used in this package are so general, the tools in this package could be misused, and generate poor quality prioritisations.

The degree to which a prioritisation truly secures a representative sample of a feature depends on the attribute spaces and distribution of demand points chosen by the decision maker. The space-based targets are set as a proportion based on the level of representation if all the planning units are selected, and the worst prioritisation containing only one planning unit. As a consequence,

if the decision maker uses an inappropriate set of spatial variables to construct an attribute space, or an inappropriate set of demand points, then the optimal solution based on this data will not be a cost-effective prioritisation. We therefore stress that decision makers must carefully consider which biodiversity processes need to be preserved in the prioritisation, and what spatial data can be used to map these processes. To assist in the selection of appropriate demand points, the R package provides several routines for generating demand points (see the `make.DemandPoints` function). These routines essentially use the distribution of a feature in the attribute space to define a polygon. Demand points are then generated as random points within the polygon. A kernel is then fit to the distribution of the feature in the space (using Blonder *et al.* 2014; Duong 2015), and the demand points are weighted based on the estimated density of the feature at the demand points' coordinates.

The **rapr** R package could be further extended to identify more effective prioritisations. First, the formulation of fragmentation used in this package may be too simplistic in some cases (eg. exercises involving multiple species with different dispersal capabilities), and more realistic measures of fragmentation (eg. those used in Zonation) could be used to identify more effective prioritisations. Second, the problem does not consider temporal dynamics. Here, conservation actions are assumed to be implemented simultaneously in all selected planning units and assumed to remain implemented for all time. As a consequence, this R package is not useful for scenarios where actions are implemented during multiple discrete periods in time (eg. actions are made adue to annual funding cycles), or scenarios involving threatening processes that vary across space and time (reviewed in Pressey *et al.* 2007). Future research may look into incorporating such elements into this R package.

To maximise the long-term persistence of biodiversity—the stated goal of conservation—decision makers need to identify prioritisations that preserve existing patterns of biodiversity and the processes that support them. To achieve this, conservation planners need a decision support tool that can explicitly accommodate biodiversity patterns and processes. Here, we developed the **rapr** R package to fill this void. By exploring the functionality of this package using several simulated species, we found that including space-based targets can radically change a prioritisation for the simplest of species.

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