Supplementary Material for: A Rough Guide to Pre-processing High-Frequency Animal Tracking Data

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2020-11-23

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1 Processing calibration data

²⁹ Here we show how the residence patch method (Barraquand and Benhamou 2008; Bijleveld

et al. 2016; Oudman et al. 2018) accurately estimates the duration of known stops in a track

collected as part of a calibration exercise in the Wadden Sea.

1.1 Prepare libraries

First we prepare the libraries we need. Libraries can be installed from CRAN if necessary.

```
# load libs
library(data.table)
library(atlastools)
library(ggplot2)
library(patchwork)

# prepare a palette
pal <- RColorBrewer::brewer.pal(4, "Set1")</pre>
```

1.2 Access data and preliminary visualisation

- First we access the data from a local file using the data.table package (Dowle and Srini-
- vasan 2020). We then visualise the raw data.

```
# read and plot example data
data <- fread("data/atlas1060_allTrials_annotated.csv")
data_raw <- copy(data)</pre>
```

1.3 Filter by bounding box

- We first save a copy of the data, so that we can plot the raw data with the cleaned data plotted
- over it for comparison.

```
# make a copy using the data.table copy function
data_unproc <- copy(data)</pre>
```

- 40 We then filter by a bounding box in order to remove the point outlier to the far south east of
- the main track. We use the atl_filter_bounds functions using the x_range argument, to
- which we pass the limit in the UTM 31N coordinate reference system. This limit is used to
- exclude all points with an X coordinate < 645,000.
- We then plot the result of filtering, with the excluded point in black, and the points that are
- retained in green.



Figure 1: The raw data from a calibration exercise conducted around the island of Griend in the Dutch Wadden Sea. A handheld WATLAS tag was used to examine how ATLAS data compared to GPS tracks, and we use the WATLAS data here to demonstrate the basics of the pre-processing pipeline, as well as validate the residence patch method. It is immediately clear from the figure that the track shows location errors, both in the form of point outliers as well as small-scale errors around the true location.

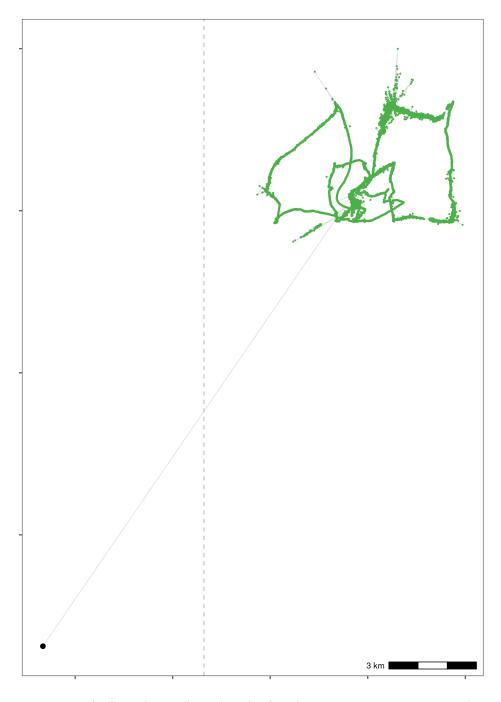


Figure 2: Removal of a point outlier using the function atl_filter_bounds. The point outlier (black point) is removed based on its X coordinate value, with the data filtered to exclude positions with an X coordinate < 645,000 in the UTM 31N system. Positions that are retained are shown in green.

1.4 Filter trajectories

47 Handle time

- 48 Time in ATLAS tracking is counted in milliseconds and is represented by a 64-bit integer
- (type long), which is not natively supported in R; it will instead be converted to a numeric,
- or double.
- This is not what is intended, but it works. The bit64 package can help handle 64-bit integers
- if you want to keep to intended type.
- A further issue is that 64-bit integers (whether represented as bit64 or double) do not yield
- meaninful results when you try to convert them to a date-time object, such as of the class
- 55 POSIXct.
- This is because as . POSIXct fails when trying to work with 64-bit integers (it cannot inter-
- pret this type), and returns a date many thousands of years in the future (approx. 52,000 CE)
- if the time column is converted to numeric.
- There are two possible solutions. The parsimonious one is to convert the 64-bit number to
- a 32-bit short integer (dividing by 1000), or to use the nanotime package.
- 61 The conversion method loses an imperceptible amount of precision. The nanotime requires
- installing another package. The first method is shown here.
- In the spirit of not destroying data, we create a second lower-case column called time.

```
# divide by 1000, convert to integer, then convert to POSIXct
data[, time := as.integer(TIME / 1000)]
```

64 Add speed and turning angle

65 Get 95th percentile of speed and angle

```
# use sapply
speed_angle_thresholds <-
    sapply(data[, list(speed_in, speed_out, angle)],
    quantile, probs = 0.9, na.rm = T)</pre>
```

66 Filter on speed

Here we use a speed threshold of 15 m/s, the fastest known boat speed. We then plot the

data with the extreme speeds shown in grey, and the positions retained shown in green.

69 1.5 Smoothing the trajectory

- We then apply a median smooth over a moving window (K = 5). This function modifies
- in place, and does not need to be assigned to a new variable. We create a copy of the data
- before applying the smooth so that we can compare the data before and after smoothin.

73 1.6 Thinning the data

- Next we thin the data to demonstrate thinning by median smoothing. Following this, we
- plot the median smooth and thinning by aggregation.

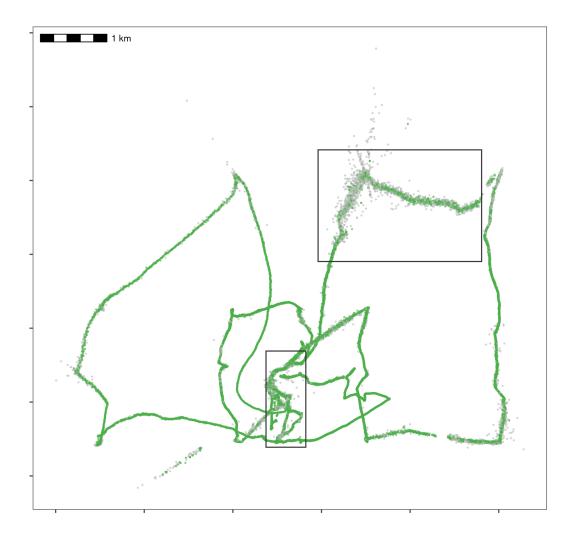


Figure 3: Improving data quality by filtering out positions that would require unrealistic movement. We removed positions with speeds ≥ 15 m/s, which is the fastest possible speed in this calibration data, part of which was collected in a moving boat around Griend. Grey positions are removed, while green positions are retained. Rectangles indicate areas expanded for visualisation in following figures.

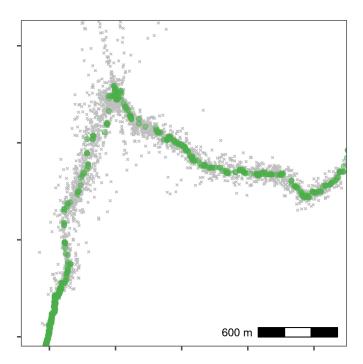


Figure 4: Reducing small-scale location error using a median smooth with a moving window K=5. Median smoothed positions are shown in green, while raw, unfiltered data is shown in grey. Median smoothing successfully recovers the likely path of the track without a loss of data. The area shown is the upper rectangle from Figure 3.

76 1.7 Residence patches

77 Get waypoint centroids

- We subset the annotated calibration data to select the waypoints and the positions around
- 79 them which are supposed to be the locations of known stops. Since each stop was supposed
- to be 5 minutes long, there are multiple points in each known stop.

```
library(stringi)
data_res <- data_unproc[stri_detect(tID, regex = "(WP)")]</pre>
```

- From this data, we get the centroid of known stops, and determine the time difference be-
- tween the first and last point within 50 metres, and within 10 minutes of the waypoint posi-
- 83 tions' median time.
- Essentially, this means that the maximum duration of a stop can be 20 minutes, and stops
- above this duration are not expected.

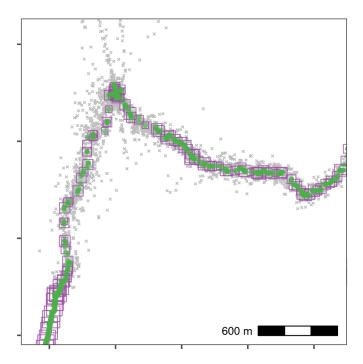


Figure 5: Thinning by aggregation over a 30 second interval (down from 1 second) preserves track structure while reducing the data volume for computation. Here, thinned positions are shown as purple squares, with the size of the square indicating the number of positions within the 30 second bin used to obtain the average position. Green points show the median smoothed data from Figure 4, while the raw data are shown in grey. The area shown is the upper rectangle in Figure 3.

```
t_median = median(time)),
                              by = "tID"]
# now get times 10 mins before and after
data_res_summary[, := (t_min = t_median - (10 * 60),
                         t_{max} = t_{median} + (10 * 60))
# make a list of positions 10min before and after
wp_data <- mapply(function(l, u, mx, my) {</pre>
  tmp_data <- data_unproc[inrange(time, l, u)]</pre>
  tmp_data[, distance := sqrt((mx - x)^2 + (my - y)^2)]
  # keep within 50
  tmp_data <- tmp_data[distance ≤ 50, ]</pre>
  # get duration
 return(diff(range(tmp_data$time)))
}, data_res_summary$t_min, data_res_summary$t_max,
   data_res_summary$x_median, data_res_summary$y_median,
SIMPLIFY = TRUE)
```

86 Prepare data

- 87 An indicator of individual residence at or near a position can be useful when attempting
- 88 to identify residence patches. Positions can be filtered on a metric such as residence time
- 89 (Bracis, Bildstein, and Mueller 2018).

90 Calculate residence time

- 91 First we calculate the residence time with a radius of 50 metres. For this, we need a dataframe
- with coordinates, the timestamp, and the animal id. We save this data to file for later use.

93 Run residence patch method

```
We subset data with a residence time > 5 minutes in order to construct residence patches. From this subset, we construct residence patches using the parameters: buffer_radius = 5 metres, lim_spat_indep = 50 metres, lim_time_indep = 5 minutes, and min_fixes = 3.

# assign id as tag data_for_patch[, id := as.character(TAG)]

# on known residence points patch_res_known <- atl_res_patch(data_for_patch[res_time > 5, ], buffer_radius = 5, lim_spat_indep = 50, lim_time_indep = 5, min_fixes = 3)
```

98 Get spatial and summary objects

We get spatial and summary ouput of the residence patch method using the atl_patch_summary function using the options which_data = "spatial" and which_data = "summary. We use a buffer radius here of 20 metres for the spatial buffer, despite using a buffer radius of 5 metres earlier, simply because it is easier to visualise in the output figure.

103 Prepare to plot data

We read in the island's shapefile to plot it as a background for the residence patch figure.

```
# read griend
griend <- sf::st_read("data/griend_polygon/griend_polygon.shp")</pre>
```

1.8 Compare patch metrics

We then merge the annoated, known stop data with the calculated patch duration. We filter this data to exclude one exceedingly long outlier of about an hour (WP080), which how

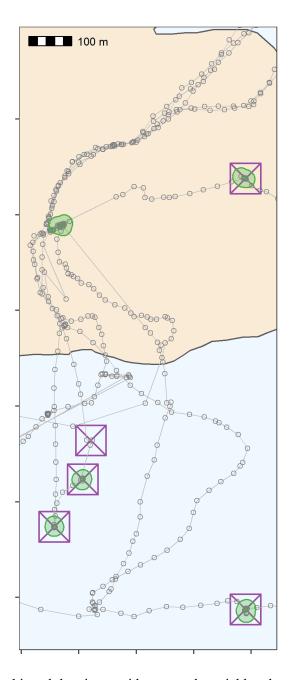


Figure 6: Classifying thinned data into residence patches yields robust estimates of the duration of known stops. The island of Griend (53.25°N, 5.25°E) is shown in beige. Residence patches (green polygons; function parameters in text) correspond well to the locations of known stops (purple crossed-squares). However, the algorithm identified all areas with prolonged residence, including those which were not intended stops (n = 12; green polygons without crossed-squares). The algorithm also failed to find two stops of 6 and 15 seconds duration, since these were lost in the data thinning step (crossed-square without green polygon shows one of these). The area shown is the lower rectangle in Figure 3.

```
# get known patch summary
   data_res <- data_unproc[stringi::stri_detect(tID, regex = "(WP)"), ]</pre>
   # get waypoint summary
   patch_summary_real <- data_res[, list(nfixes_real = .N,</pre>
                                             x_{median} = round(median(x), digits = -2),
                                             y_median = round(median(y), digits = -2)),
                                     by = "tID"]
   # add real duration
   patch_summary_real[, duration_real := wp_data]
   # round median coordinate for inferred patches
   patch_summary_inferred <-</pre>
     patch_summary_data[,
                          c("x_median", "y_median",
                            "nfixes", "duration", "patch")
                          ][, := (x_median = round(x_median, digits = -2),
                                    y_median = round(y_median, digits = -2))]
   # join with respatch summary
   patch_summary_compare <-
     merge(patch_summary_real,
            patch_summary_inferred,
            on = c("x_median", "y_median"),
            all.x = TRUE, all.y = TRUE)
   # drop nas
   patch_summary_compare <- na.omit(patch_summary_compare)</pre>
   # drop patch around WP080
   patch_summary_compare <- patch_summary_compare[tID \neq "WP080", ]</pre>
  7 patches are identified where there are no waypoints, while 2 waypoints are not identified as
   patches. These waypoints consisted of 6 and 15 (WP098 and WP092) positions respectively,
   and were lost when the data were aggregated to 30 second intervals.
   Linear model durations
We run a simple linear model.
   # get linear model
   model_duration <- lm(duration_real ~ duration,</pre>
                          data = patch_summary_compare)
   # get R2
   summary(model_duration)
   # write to file
   writeLines(
     text = capture.output(
```

```
summary(model_duration)
),
con = "data/model_output_residence_patch.txt"
)
```

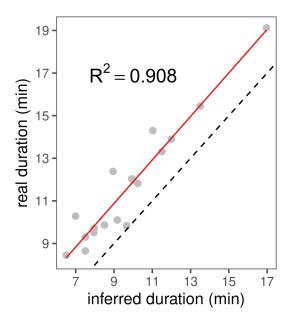


Figure 7: The inferred duration of residence patches corresponds very closely to the real duration (grey circles, red line shows linear model fit), with an underestimation of the true duration of around 2%. The dashed black line represents y=x for reference.

113 Linear model summary

```
cat(
  readLines(
    con = "data/model_output_residence_patch.txt",
    encoding = "UTF-8"
  ), sep = "\n"
)
#>
#> Call:
   lm(formula = duration_real ~ duration, data = patch_summary_compare)
#>
#>
  Residuals:
#>
#>
        Min
                   1Q
                        Median
                                     3Q
                                              Max
   -103.237
             -19.277
                        -2.917
                                  7.003
                                           93.431
#>
  Coefficients:
#>
#>
                Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
#> (Intercept) 101.42061
                                        2.128
                            47.66936
                                                0.0493 *
  duration
                 1.02108
                             0.07876
                                      12.965 6.66e-10 ***
                   0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' '1
#> Signif. codes:
#>
```

```
#> Residual standard error: 50.35 on 16 degrees of freedom
#> Multiple R-squared: 0.9131, Adjusted R-squared: 0.9077
#> F-statistic: 168.1 on 1 and 16 DF, p-value: 6.655e-10
```

2 Processing Egyptian fruit bat tracks

We show the pre-processing pipeline at work on the tracks of three Egyptian fruit bats (*Rousettus aegyptiacus*), and construct residence patches.

117 2.1 Prepare libraries

Install the required R libraries that are required from CRAN if not already installed.

```
# load libs
library(data.table)
library(RSQLite)
library(ggplot2)
library(patchwork)

# prepare a palette
pal <- RColorBrewer::brewer.pal(4, "Set1")</pre>
```

119 2.2 Install atlastools from Github.

atlastools is available from Github and is archived on Zenodo (Gupte 2020). It can be installed using remotes or devtools. Here we use the remotes function install_github.

```
install.packages("remotes")

# installation using remotes
remotes::install_github("pratikunterwegs/atlastools")
```

123 2.3 Read bat data

Read the bat data from an SQLite database local file and convert to a plain text csv file. This data can be found in the "data" folder.

```
data <- dbGetQuery(conn = con, statement = query)

# disconnect from database
dbDisconnect(con)

Convert data to csv, and save a local copy in the folder "data".

# convert data to datatable
setDT(data)

# write data for QGIS
fwrite(data, file = "data/bat_data.csv")</pre>
```

2.4 A First Visual Inspection

Plot the bat data as a sanity check, and inspect it visually for errors (Figure 1). The plot code is hidden in the rendered copy (PDF) of this supplementary material, but is available in the Rmarkdown file "06_bat_data.Rmd". The saved plot is shown below as Figure 1.

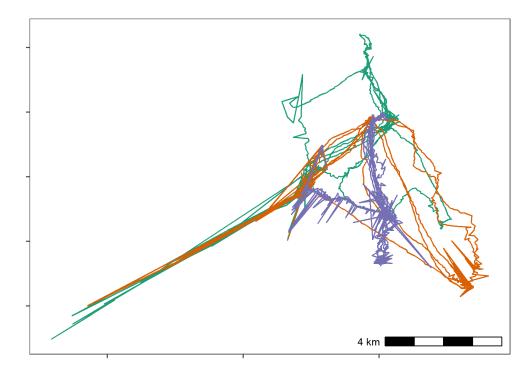


Figure 8: Movement data from three Egyptian fruit bats tracked using the ATLAS system (*Rousettus aegyptiacus*; (Toledo et al. 2020; Shohami and Nathan 2020)). The bats were tracked in the Hula Valley, Israel (33.1°N, 35.6°E), and we use three nights of tracking (5th, 6th, and 7th May, 2018), for our demonstration, with an average of 13,370 positions (SD = 2,173; range = 11,195 – 15,542; interval = 8 seconds) per individual. After first plotting the individual tracks, we notice severe distortions, making pre-processing necesary

2.5 Prepare data for filtering

Here we apply a series of simple filters. It is always safer to deal with one individual at a time, so we split the data.table into a list of data.tables to avoid mixups among individuals.

134 Prepare data per individual

```
# split bat data by tag
# first make a copy using the data.table function copy
# this prevents the original data from being modified by atlastools
# functions which DO MODIFY BY REFERENCE!
data_split <- copy(data)
# now split
data_split <- split(data_split, by = "TAG")</pre>
```

2.6 Filter by covariates

- No natural bounds suggest themselves, so instead we proceed to filter by covariates, since point outliers are obviously visible.
- We use filter out positions with SD > 20 and positions calculated using only 3 base stations, using the function atl_filter_covariates.
- First we calculate the variable SD.

```
# get SD.
# since the data are data.tables, no assignment is necessary
invisible(
    lapply(data_split, function(dt) {
        dt[, SD := sqrt(VARX + VARY + (2 * COVXY))]
     })
)
```

Then we pass the filters to atl_filter_covariates. We apply the filter to each individual's data using an lapply.

143 Sanity check: Plot filtered data

We plot the data to check whether the filtering has improved the data (Figure 2). The plot code is once again hidden in this rendering, but is available in the source code file.

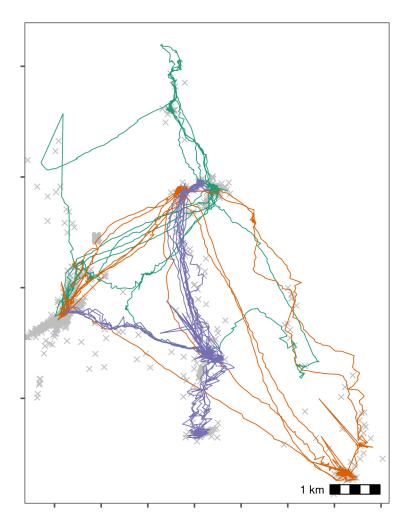


Figure 9: Bat data filtered for large location errors, removing observations with standard deviation > 20. Grey crosses show data that were removed. Since the number of base stations used in the location process is a good indicator of error (Weiser et al. 2016), we also removed observations calculated using fewer than four base stations. Both steps used the function atl_filter_covariates. This filtering reduced the data to an average of 10,447 positions per individual (78% of the raw data on average). However, some point outliers remain.

2.7 Filter by speed

- Some point outliers remain (Figure 2), and could be removed using a speed filter.
- First we calculate speeds, using atl_get_speed. We must assign the speed output to a new
- column in the data.table, which has a special syntax which modifies in place, and is shown

below. This syntax is a feature of the data.table package, not strictly of atlastools (Dowle and Srinivasan 2020).

```
# get speeds as with SD, no reassignment required for columns
invisible(
 lapply(data_split, function(dt) {
    # first process time to seconds
    # assign to a new column
    dt[, time := floor(TIME / 1000)]
    dt[, `:=`(speed_in = atl_get_speed(dt,
                                        x = "X", y = "Y",
                                        time = "time",
                                        type = "in"),
              speed_out = atl_get_speed(dt,
                                        x = "X", y = "Y",
                                        time = "time",
                                        type = "out"))]
 })
)
```

Now filter for speeds > 20 m/s (around 70 km/h), passing the predicate (a statement return TRUE or FALSE) to atl_filter_covariates. First, we remove positions which have NA for their speed_in (the first position) and their speed_out (last position).

Sanity check: Plot speed filtered data

The speed filtered data is now inspected for errors (Figure 3). The plot code is once again hidden.

58 2.8 Median smoothing

The quality of this data (Figure 3) is relatively high, and a median smooth is not strictly necessary. We demonstrate the application of a 5 point median smooth to the data nonetheless.

Since the median smoothing function atl_median_smooth modifies in place, we first make a copy of the data, using data.table's copy function. No reassignment is required, in this case. The lapply function allows arguments to atl_median_smooth to be passed within lapply itself.

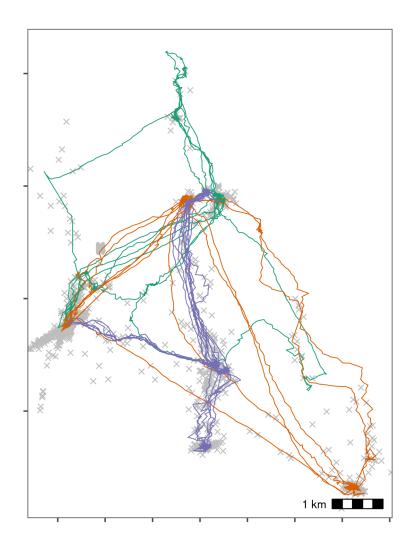


Figure 10: Bat data with unrealistic speeds removed. Grey crosses show data that were removed. We calculated the incoming and outgoing speed of each position using atl_get_speed, and filtered out positions with speeds > 20 m/s using atl_filter_covariates, leaving 10,337 positions per individual on average (98% from the previous step).

- In this case, the same moving window K is applied to all individuals, but modifying this code
- to use the multivariate version Map allows different K to be used for different individuals.
- This is a programming matter, and is not covered here further.

- 169 Sanity check: Plot smoothed data
- 170 2.9 Making residence patches
- Calculating residence time
- First, the data is put through the recurse package to get residence time (Bracis, Bildstein, and Mueller 2018).

```
# load recurse
library(recurse)

# split the data
data_smooth <- split(data_smooth, data_smooth$TAG)</pre>
```

- We calculated residence time, but since bats may revisit the same features, we want to prevent confusion between frequent revisits and prolonged residence.
- For this, we stop summing residence times within Z metres of a location if the animal exited the area for one hour or more. The value of Z (radius, in recurse parameter terms) was chosen as 50m.
- This step is relatively complicated and is only required for individuals which frequently return to the same location, or pass over the same areas repeatedly, and for which revisits (cumulative time spent) may be confused for residence time in a single visit.
- While a simpler implementation using total residence time divided by the number of revisits is also possible, this does assume that each revisit had the same residence time.

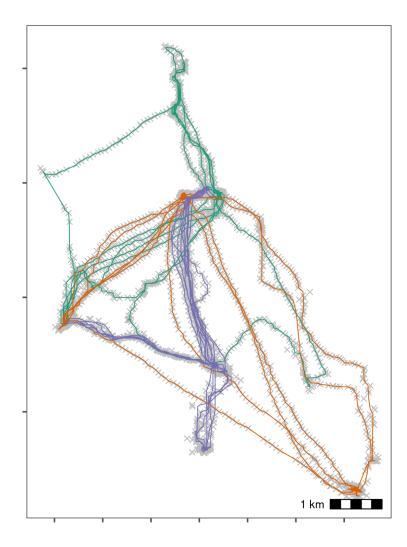


Figure 11: Bat data after applying a median smooth with a moving window K = 5. Grey crosses show data prior to smoothing. The smoothing step did not discard any data.

```
# get residence times
   data_residence <- lapply(data_smooth, function(dt) {</pre>
     # do basic recurse
     dt_recurse <- getRecursions(</pre>
       x = dt[, c("X", "Y", "time", "TAG")],
       radius = 50,
       timeunits = "mins"
     )
     # get revisit stats
     dt_recurse <- setDT(</pre>
       dt_recurse[["revisitStats"]]
     # count long absences from the area
     dt_recurse[, timeSinceLastVisit :=
              ifelse(is.na(timeSinceLastVisit), -Inf, timeSinceLastVisit)]
     dt_recurse[, longAbsenceCounter := cumsum(timeSinceLastVisit > 60),
                 by = .(coordIdx)
                 ]
     # get data before the first long absence of 60 mins
     dt_recurse <- dt_recurse[longAbsenceCounter < 1, ]</pre>
     dt_recurse <- dt_recurse[, list(</pre>
       resTime = sum(timeInside),
       fpt = first(timeInside),
       revisits = max(visitIdx)
     ),
     by = .(coordIdx, x, y)
     # prepare and merge existing data with recursion data
     dt[, coordIdx := seq(nrow(dt))]
     dt <- merge(dt,
                  dt_recurse[, c("coordIdx", "resTime")],
                  by = c("coordIdx"))
     setorderv(dt, "time")
   })
We bind the data together and assign a human readable timestamp column.
   # bind the list
   data_residence <- rbindlist(data_residence)</pre>
   # get time as human readable
   data_residence[, ts := as.POSIXct(time, origin = "1970-01-01")]
```

185 Constructing residence patches

Some preparation is required. First, the function requires columns x, y, time, and id, which we assign using the data.table syntax. Then we subset the data to only work with positions where the individual had a residence time of more than 5 minutes.

193 Getting residence patch data

We extract the residence patch data as spatial sf-MULTIPOLYGON objects. These are returned as a list and must be converted into a single sf object. These objects and the raw movement data are shown in Figure 5.

97 Write patch spatial representations

198 Write cleaned bat data.

3 References

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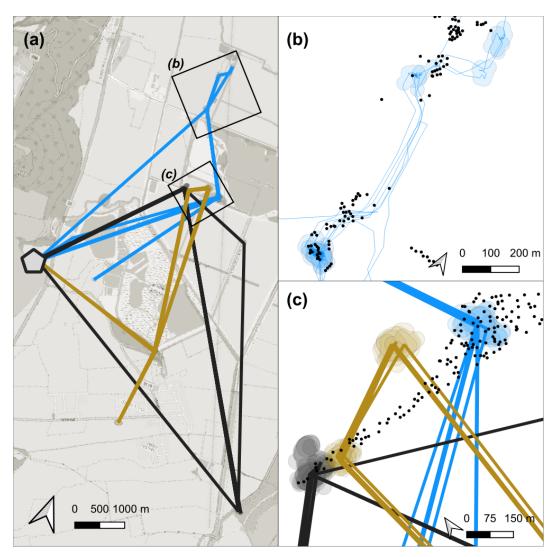


Figure 12: A visual examination of plots of the bats' residence patches and linear approximations of paths between them showed that though all three bats roosted at the same site, they used distinct areas of the study site over the three nights (a). Bats tended to be resident near fruit trees, which are their main food source, travelling repeatedly between previously visited areas (b, c). However, bats also appeared to spend some time at locations where no fruit trees were recorded, prompting questions about their use of other food sources (b, c). When bats did occur close together, their residence patches barely overlapped, and their paths to and from the broad area of co-occurrence were not similar (c). Constructing residence patches for multiple individuals over multiple activity periods suggests interesting dynamics of within- and between-individual overlap (b, c).

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