Creating Migratory Networks in R: mignette

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# Contents

1	Introduction	5
	1.1 Tutorial structure	5
	1.2 Installation	6
2	Quick start example	7
3	Define breeding and nonbreeding nodes	11
	3.1 Vector data	11
	3.2 Raster data	14
4	Assemble abundance and migratory connectivity data	17
	4.1 Abundance data	17
	4.2 Migratory connectivity data	18
5	Modeling the migratory network	21
	5.1 Input data	21
6	Supplement: Visualizations	<b>25</b>
	6.1 Alluvial plot	25
7	Supplement: Avian abundance data and genetic breeding nodes	27
	7.1 Breeding nodes	

4 CONTENTS

# Introduction

This vignette outlines how to create migratory networks using the R package mignette (migratory network tools ensemble). mignette was developed to facilitate conservation and management decision-making for migratory wildlife populations using migratory networks [Ruegg et al., 2020, Taylor and Norris, 2010]. Spatial migratory networks are graph-based models that incorporate migratory connectivity and abundance data to define the degree of connectivity between stages of the annual cycle, defined as breeding and nonbreeding nodes. These models are useful for a wide variety of applications because they can accommodate, and combine, different types of common tracking data used to infer individual and population movement across the annual cycle. We designed mignette to facilitate the creation and visualization of migratory networks for users with a wide-range of data sources and study species.

#### 1.1 Tutorial structure

For an introductory demonstration of creating a migratory network with mignette, see the quick start example. This demonstrates the core functionality of mignette using data from a recent study of the American Redstart (Setophaga ruticilla), a widespread Nearctic-Neotropical migratory songbird [DeSaix et al., 2023].

Subsequent chapters of the vignette provide more detailed instructions and are broken up into three main steps:

- 1. Define breeding and nonbreeding nodes
- 2. Assemble abundance and migratory connectivity data
- 3. Modeling the migratory network

#### 1.2 Installation

While mignette is an R package, it uses JAGS (Just Another Gibbs Sampler) to actually implement the migratory network model. JAGS is a specific software for conducting analysis of Bayesian hierarchical models using Markov Chain Monte Carlo simulation. **JAGS needs to be installed for mignette to function** and can be downloaded here.

Once you have installed JAGS, you can install mignette from GitHub with:

```
# install.packages("remotes")
remotes::install_github("mgdesaix/mignette")
```

The primary packages for this vignette are:

```
library(mignette)
library(sf)
library(terra)
library(tidyverse)
library(ebirdst) # for avian abundance data from eBird Status and Trends
library(rjags) # for network model
library(jagsUI) # for network model
library(ggnewscale) # for network visualization
library(tidyterra) # for plotting terra objects with ggplot
```

# Quick start example

Here, we demonstrate a quick example of how to create a migratory network when the user has all of the data required. To run this tutorial, load the following packages:

```
library(tidyverse)
library(mignette)
library(rjags)
library(jagsUI)
library(ggnewscale)
```

The data required are:

- Abundance
- Migratory connectivity

We provide an example of these data in mignette, with migratory connectivity data from 5 breeding nodes (WB = Western Boreal, NT = Northern Temperate, ST = Southern Temperate, BR = Basin Rockies, MP = Maritime Provinces) and 5 nonbreeding nodes (ALM = Atlantic Lowland Mexico, CAR = Caribbean, AONU = Amazon/Orinoco-Northern Uplands, HCA = Highland Central America, LCA = Lowland Central America) for the American Redstart (Setophaga ruticilla). The migratory connectivity data specifies the number of individuals that have been sampled or detected that migrate between different populations (i.e. connect the nodes).

mignette::amre\_assign

Breeding	CAR	AONU	ALM	HCA	LCA
BR	2	0	0	0	0
MP	0	9	0	0	0
NT	54	0	3	0	0
ST	12	12	0	4	1
WB	1	0	19	1	13

We also provide the abundance of these nodes:

mignette::amre\_abundance

Population	Relative_abundance
BR	2403
ST	9419
MP	19011
NT	72147
WB	26080
HCA	326
AONU	1139
LCA	2802
ALM	3169
CAR	7987

For the following functions, we specify the order of the nodes we are using for the model. Here, we are just ordering nodes geographically by longitude to facilitate straightforward interpretation of the output.

```
bnode_names <- c("WB", "BR", "NT", "ST", "MP")
wnode_names <- c("ALM", "LCA", "HCA", "CAR", "AONU")</pre>
```

For the American Redstart migratory network, we use model = 1 from mignette which specifies that nonbreeding nodes are the "encounter" season and breeding nodes are the "recovery" season (i.e., inferred). This output saves the model as amre.genetic.model\_1.txt. Below we specify parallel = TRUE to run MCMC on multiple cores and use the remaining defaults described previously CHANGE LINK. This step is computationally intensive and takes ~2 minutes to run on a 2023 MacBook Pro with an Apple M2 Pro chip.

The run\_network\_model() function outputs a list object with two components. The first component of the output is network\_model\$conn which provides a formatted data frame (i.e., breeding nodes in first column, remaining columns have

nonbreeding node names) of the modeled connectivity results. Each value in the connectivity matrix indicates the overall importance of a particular migratory connection. These values are interpreted as the proportion of individuals that migrate between the corresponding populations, as such all of the values in the connectivity matrix sum to one.

#### network\_model\$conn

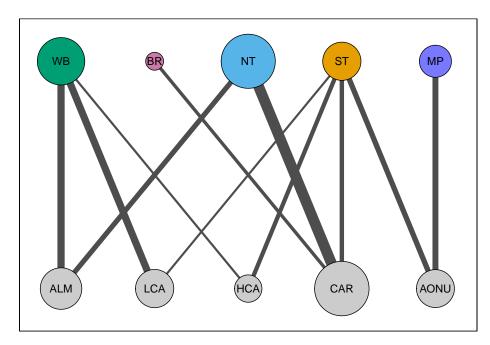
Breeding	ALM	LCA	HCA	CAR	AONU
WB	0.14212	0.13901	0.01346	0.00507	0.00002
BR	0.00010	0.00021	0.00008	0.02082	0.00004
NT	0.05680	0.00041	0.00013	0.38276	0.00006
ST	0.00003	0.01345	0.03618	0.03902	0.06453
MP	0.00013	0.00036	0.00022	0.00002	0.08496

The second component is the full output from \*jagsUI\* autojags() and is accessed by network\_model\$jags\_out. Here, the raw connectivity matrix can be accessed:

```
amre_conn <- network_model$jags_out$mean$conn_g
amre_conn</pre>
```

0.14212	0.13901	0.01346	0.00507	0.00002
0.00010	0.00021	0.00008	0.02082	0.00004
0.05680	0.00041	0.00013	0.38276	0.00006
0.00003	0.01345	0.03618	0.03902	0.06453
0.00013	0.00036	0.00022	0.00002	0.08496

The raw connectivity matrix is used to plot the network. We plot the migratory network with the provided mignette functions net\_create() and net\_draw(). We set connected\_tol = 0.01 which plots only the edges with connectivity values of greater than 0.01.



In this visualization, node size corresponds to the amount of connectivity with that population and edge size corresponds to the amount of connectivity between the populations. Breeding populations are in the top row, for which we provided custom colors, and nonbreeding populations are in the bottom row.

This sums up the basics of creating and visualizing a migratory network. We encourage users to explore and build upon the visualization tools we provide (e.g. overlay the migratory networks on geographic ranges) - the options are endless, enjoy!

# Define breeding and nonbreeding nodes

The first step of creating a migratory network is to spatially define the nodes (i.e. populations) that make up the sampled portions of the breeding and non-breeding range. This can either be done with *vector* data for discrete spatial boundaries of nodes or *raster* data for a continuous surface probabilistic membership of geographic cells to a node (e.g., population genetic structure of a genoscape [Ruegg et al., 2020]).

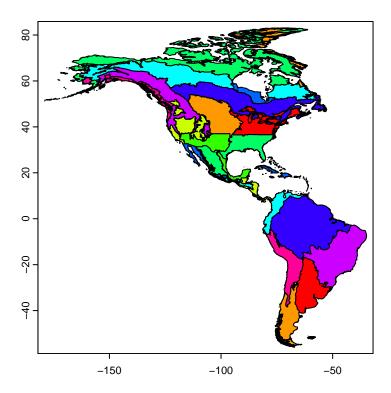
```
library(mignette)
library(tidyverse)
library(terra)
```

#### 3.1 Vector data

Vector data can define nodes by representing geographic boundaries such as political borders or biogeographic regions. In mignette, we provide data for *conservation regions* of the Western Hemisphere that integrate geopolitical boundaries and ecoregions.

```
# SpatVector from terra package
regions_file <- system.file("extdata", "conservation_regions.Rds", package = "mignette")
# read in file as SpatVector
conservation_regions <- terra::vect(regions_file)

terra::plot(conservation_regions, col=rainbow(10))</pre>
```



For defining a node, we are only interested in regions that we have data. It's straightforward with the spatial functions from terra to determine the sampled regions. Here, we find the conservation regions for which we have sampled American Redstart data from the nonbreeding range.

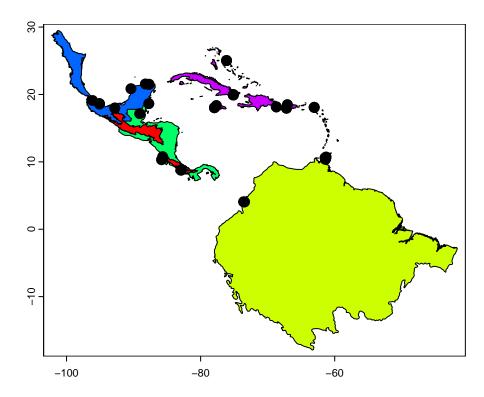
```
## Northern Andes ## 3
```

Downstream in the workflow, we need sufficiently sampling of individuals in (or inference to) a node. So, we'll only retain the conservation regions with more than 3 samples.

```
# retain conservation region names with more than 3 samples
retained_IDs <- names(sampled_table[sampled_table > 3])
retained_IDs
```

```
## [1] "Amazon/Orinoco-Northern Uplands" "Atlantic Lowland Mexico"
## [3] "Caribbean" "Highland Central America"
## [5] "Lowland Central America"
```

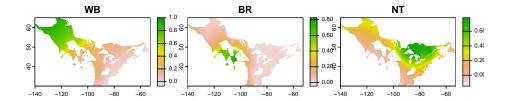
Thus, we've identified the 5 nonbreeding nodes for the American Redstart data: Amazon/Orinoco-Northern Uplands (AONU), Atlantic Lowland Mexico (ALM), Caribbean (CAR), Highland Central America (HCA), and Lowland Central America (LCA). We can plot these conservation regions along with the corresponding sampling points.

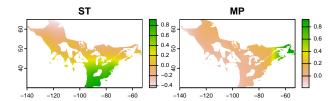


#### 3.2 Raster data

Raster data is used when populations are defined by a continuous surface of probabilities of membership to a population. In the example here, we have population genetic data from the American Redstart that define breeding populations (i.e., American Redstart genoscape, [DeSaix et al., 2023]). We have defined these nodes as Western Boreal (WB), Basin Rockies (BR), Northern Temperate (NT), Southern Temperate (ST) and Maritime Provinces (MP). Raster data for nodes are used in mignette to get node abundance that is scaled by the raster probabilities of population membership, as shown in the next section.

```
amre_genoscape_file <- system.file("extdata", "amre_genoscape.Rds", package = "mignett
amre_genoscape <- terra::rast(amre_genoscape_file)
terra::plot(amre_genoscape)</pre>
```





While it is outside the scope of mignette to perform the requisite population genetics analyses for producing these rasters, users with genetic data and expertise with genetic clustering analyses may be interested in the Supplementary information that provide additional information and code.

Now on to Step 2) Abundance and migratory connectivity data

# Assemble abundance and migratory connectivity data

The two main data inputs into the migratory network model are abundance data and migratory connectivity data for the nodes.

#### 4.1 Abundance data

Once users have defined breeding and nonbreeding nodes for their sampled data, the species' abundance for each node is needed. In some cases, users may be using node definitions for which abundance estimates have already been calculated. Regardless of however mignette users obtain abundance data for the breeding and nonbreeding nodes, it needs to be formatted in the following manner for using with mignette as shown with the example American Redstart data:

mignette::amre\_abundance

Population	Relative_abundance
BR	2403
ST	9419
MP	19011
NT	72147
WB	26080
HCA	326
AONU	1139
LCA	2802
ALM	3169
CAR	7987

where the first column of the data frame is the node (i.e., population) and the second column is the abundance. All sampled nodes from the breeding and nonbreeding range need to be present in this file.

One common form of abundance data is as a raster where each cell specifies abundance (for example eBird Status and Trends data available from the ebirdst R package). If you are working with raster abundance data and need to summarize it at the node level, there are two functions in mignette to facilitate that process.

- 1. get\_vector\_abunds(populations, abunds) sums the abundance data for a SpatRaster object of abundance (specified by the abunds parameter) by the vector node delineation (specified by the populations parameter).
- 2. get\_raster\_abunds(populations, abunds) sums the abundance data for a SpatRaster object of abundance by weighting values based on the raster node delineation.

#### 4.2 Migratory connectivity data

In addition to having node abundance data, mignette users need to have migratory connectivity data detailing the number of individuals connecting the nodes between the two stages. Migratory connectivity data has a directionality to it - i.e., there is an "encounter" season and a "recovery" season - and we use this corresponding terminology from [Procházka et al., 2017]. In mignette different types of migratory connectivity data use different models based on whether the breeding or nonbreeding seasons are the "encounter" or "recovery" seasons. To account for users providing different types of connectivity data, we provide three different models in mignette: 1 = the nonbreeding season is "encounter" and the breeding season is "recovery"; 2 = the breeding season is "encounter" and the nonbreeding season is "recovery"; and 3 = connectivity data are from both model types 1 and 2. For cross-season mark-recapture data (i.e. from banding or geolocators), the encounter season is where the individual is captured and the recovery season is where they are re-captured or re-sighted or, in the case of geolocator data, inferred to have originated. For genetic data, the encounter season is nonbreeding and the recovery season is breeding (i.e., "inferred").

The American Redstart assignment is all from genetic data [DeSaix et al., 2023]:

mignette::amre assign

Breeding	CAR	AONU	ALM	HCA	LCA
BR	2	0	0	0	0
MP	0	9	0	0	0
NT	54	0	3	0	0
ST	12	12	0	4	1
WB	1	0	19	1	13

For the migratory network, the migratory connectivity data needs to be formatted as above: where the first column provides the node names from the "recovery" season in the rows and the remaining columns are the "encounter" season node names. The values in the data frame all the numbers of individuals assigned from the "encounter" season to the "recovery" season (in this case, American Redstarts assigned from the nonbreeding sampling location to the breeding population).

Thus, when mignette users have migratory connectivity data types that include assignment in both directions, they will need to create two separate data frames for those data.

Now on to Step 3) Modeling the migratory network

#### 20 CHAPTER~4.~~ASSEMBLE~ABUNDANCE~AND~MIGRATORY~CONNECTIVITY~DATA

# Modeling the migratory network

## 5.1 Input data

As described in the previous section the data required are:

- Abundance
- Migratory connectivity

The abundance data need to be in the following format, with node IDs (same names as in the *assignment* file) in the first column and abundance values in the second column.

Population	Relative_abundance
BR	2403
ST	9419
MP	19011
NT	72147
WB	26080
HCA	326
AONU	1139
LCA	2802
ALM	3169
CAR	7987

For the migratory connectivity data, the input data needs to correspond to the following format:

Breeding	CAR	AONU	ALM	HCA	LCA
BR	2	0	0	0	0
MP	0	9	0	0	0
NT	54	0	3	0	0
ST	12	12	0	4	1
WB	1	0	19	1	13

If you skipped it, see the previous Step 2) Abundance and migratory connectivity data section for specific details on the input data formatting!

For the following functions, we specify the order of the nodes we are using for the model. Here, we are just ordering nodes geographically by longitude to facilitate straightforward interpretation of the output.

```
bnode_names <- c("WB", "BR", "NT", "ST", "MP")
wnode_names <- c("ALM", "LCA", "HCA", "CAR", "AONU")</pre>
```

For the American Redstart migratory network, we use model = 1 from mignette which specifies that nonbreeding nodes are "encountered" and breeding nodes are "recovered" (i.e., inferred). This output saves the model as amre.genetic.model\_1.txt. Below we specify parallel = TRUE to run MCMC on multiple cores and use the remaining defaults described previously CHANGE LINK. This step is computationally intensive and takes ~2 minutes to run on a 2023 MacBook Pro with an Apple M2 Pro chip.

The run\_network\_model() function outputs a list object with two components. The first component of the output is network\_model\$conn which provides a formatted data frame (i.e., breeding nodes in first column, remaining columns have nonbreeding node names) of the modeled connectivity results. Each value in the connectivity matrix indicates the overall importance of a particular migratory connection. These values are interpreted as the proportion of individuals that migrate between the corresponding populations, as such all of the values in the connectivity matrix sum to one.

```
network_model$conn
```

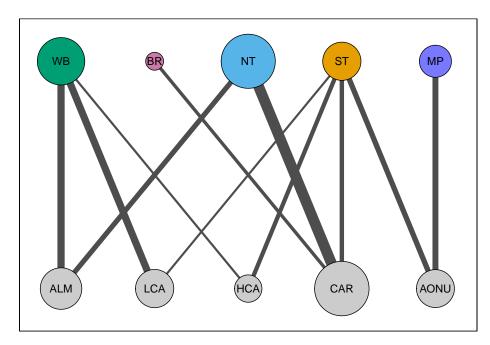
Breeding	ALM	LCA	HCA	CAR	AONU
WB	0.14212	0.13901	0.01346	0.00507	0.00002
BR	0.00010	0.00021	0.00008	0.02082	0.00004
NT	0.05680	0.00041	0.00013	0.38276	0.00006
ST	0.00003	0.01345	0.03618	0.03902	0.06453
MP	0.00013	0.00036	0.00022	0.00002	0.08496

The second component is the full output from \*jagsUI\* autojags() and is accessed by network\_model\$jags\_out. Here, the raw connectivity matrix can be accessed:

```
amre_conn <- network_model$jags_out$mean$conn_g
amre_conn</pre>
```

0.14212	0.13901	0.01346	0.00507	0.00002
0.00010	0.00021	0.00008	0.02082	0.00004
0.05680	0.00041	0.00013	0.38276	0.00006
0.00003	0.01345	0.03618	0.03902	0.06453
0.00013	0.00036	0.00022	0.00002	0.08496

The raw connectivity matrix is used to plot the network. We plot the migratory network with the provided mignette functions net\_create() and net\_draw(). We set connected\_tol = 0.01 which plots only the edges with connectivity values of greater than 0.01. We also demonstrate below how to change parameters such as the colors and the node and edge scale size.



In this visualization, node size corresponds to the amount of connectivity with that population and edge size corresponds to the amount of connectivity between the populations. Breeding populations are in the top row, for which we provided custom colors, and nonbreeding populations are in the bottom row.

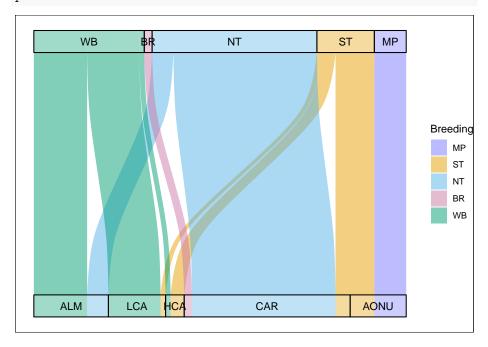
Now you have a migratory network! Check out the visualization supplement for additional ideas on plotting the network.

# Supplement: Visualizations

### 6.1 Alluvial plot

Ok, we'll toss out another way to visualize these networks using the ggalluvial package because it's really fun. In this alluvial plot, the width of the connections correspond to the network model connectivity output, thus correspond to the proportion of the global species abundance that use that migratory network. The bars on the top row are the breeding nodes scaled by abundance and the bottom row are the nonbreeding nodes scaled by abundance.

```
library(tidyverse)
library(mignette)
library(ggalluvial)
bnode_names <- c("WB", "BR", "NT", "ST", "MP")</pre>
wnode names <- c("ALM", "LCA", "HCA", "CAR", "AONU")
cluster_colors <- c(</pre>
  `ST` = "#e69f00", # orange/Southern Temperate
  `BR` = "#cc79a7", # pink/Basin Rockies (BR)
  `NT` = "#56b4e9", # light blue/Northern Temperate (NT)
  `WB` = "#009e73", # green/Western Boreal (WB)
  `MP` = "#7979ff" # dark blue/Maritime Provinces (MP)
amre_conn_df <- mignette::amre_conn %>%
  as_tibble(rownames = "Breeding") %>%
  pivot_longer(cols = ALM:AONU, names_to = "Nonbreeding", values_to = "Connectivity") %>%
  mutate(Connectivity = ifelse(Connectivity < 0.01, 0, Connectivity)) %>%
  mutate(Breeding = factor(Breeding, levels = rev(bnode_names)),
```



# Supplement: Avian abundance data and genetic breeding nodes

This supplementary section provides more detailed information outside the scope of mignette. Specifically, the code here goes into details of using avian abundance data and genetic populations from a genoscape.

## 7.1 Breeding nodes

Delineating breeding nodes is necessary for our migratory network model for both 1) assignment among populations, and 2) specifying a region for relative abundance. Here, we show how breeding nodes can be delineated by genetically distinct populations on the breeding grounds. In this example, we'll show how to use eBird Status and Trends data to specify the breeding range and then use genetic data from admixture analyses to specify the spatial extent of the breeding nodes.

#### 7.1.1 ebirdst

In our migratory network analyses, the eBird Status and Trends data is used to delineate the different stages of the annual cycle. Prior to doing anything with eBird Status and Trends data, you will need to download the ebirdst package, and then get access to the data. You will need to follow the most up-to-date instructions from the ebirdst developers for getting the abundance data. Currently, that information is here: https://ebird.github.io/ebirdst/

To download the package:

```
# install.packages("remotes")
remotes::install_github("CornellLabofOrnithology/ebirdst")
```

Then, get access to ebirdst data at https://ebird.org/st/request. You will receive a key to download ebirdst data and you can enter that key in R:

```
ebirdst::set_ebirdst_access_key("XXXXX")
```

where "XXXXX" is the key.

By following instructions from the ebirdst developers, you can obtain polygons of the breeding and nonbreeding ranges of avian species (see https://ebird.github.io/ebirdst/ for details).

#### 7.1.2 Creating the genoscape

A genoscape is the collection of genetically distinct populations that make up a species' range [Ruegg et al., 2021]. Typically, for migratory species, the genoscape describes this population structure on the breeding range because the nonbreeding populations can can contain individuals from different breeding populations.

We will outline the main genoscape creation steps here, but full instructions on creating a genoscape map can be found in Eric Anderson's Github project Make a Bird Genoscape Project map. The input data needed for a genoscape are:

- Individual Q-value matrix
- Lat/lon matrix of individuals
- Breeding range polygon

The Q-value matrix is obtained from individual admixture analyses (e.g. Structure, Admixture, snmf fuction from the LEA R-package). Latitude/longitude coordinates are for the individual samples used in the Q-value matrix. Breeding range polygons can be obtained from ebirdst (see previous section).

The amre\_breeding\_data data set provides admixture results (Q-values) for five genetic clusters for American Redstart [DeSaix et al., 2023] and metadata for the sampled individuals.

```
library(mignette)
Q_matrix <- mignette::amre_breeding_data %>%
    dplyr::select(WB, BR, NT, ST, MP) %>%
    as.matrix()

coords <- mignette::amre_breeding_data %>%
    dplyr::select(Lon, Lat) %>%
    as.matrix()
```

The larger data objects in mignette are stored in extdata:

```
breeding_range <- system.file("extdata", "amre_breeding_range.Rds", package = "mignette")
breeding_range <- terra::vect(breeding_range)
breeding_range_st <- sf::st_as_sf(breeding_range) # tess3Q_map_rasters function requires sf object</pre>
```

We will also specify custom colors to correspond to the published genoscape.

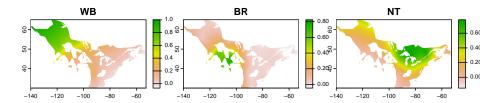
```
cluster_colors <- c(
    `ST` = "#e69f00", # orange/Southern Temperate
    `BR` = "#cc79a7", # pink/Basin Rockies (BR)
    `NT` = "#56b4e9", # light blue/Northern Temperate (NT)
    `WB` = "#009e73", # green/Western Boreal (WB)
    `MP` = "#7979ff" # dark blue/Maritime Provinces (MP)
)</pre>
```

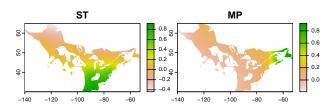
We will use a modified version of the tess3r package to create the genoscape rasters.

```
# remotes::install_github("eriqande/TESS3_encho_sen")
amre_genoscape <- tess3r::tess3Q_map_rasters(</pre>
 x = Q_{matrix}
  coord = coords,
 map.polygon = breeding_range_st,
  window = sf::st_bbox(breeding_range_st),
  resolution = c(300,300), # if you want more cells in your raster, set higher
  col.palette = tess3r::CreatePalette(cluster colors, length(cluster colors)),
  method = "map.max",
  interpol = tess3r::FieldsKrigModel(10),
 main = "Ancestry coefficients",
  xlab = "Longitude",
 ylab = "Latitude",
  cex = .4
)
names(amre_genoscape) <- colnames(Q_matrix)</pre>
amre_genoscape <- terra::rast(amre_genoscape) # convert from rasterbrick to spatRaster</pre>
crs(amre_genoscape) <- "EPSG:4326" # Set CRS projection</pre>
```

Check out the resulting genoscape:

```
plot(amre_genoscape)
```





#### STOP

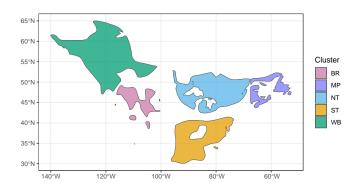
The rasters for the genoscape are all that are needed for obtaining information on relative abundance for the different populations. You can continue on to the relative abundance chapter if you are ready to do that with the genoscape. Or if you still need to create the wintering nodes, check out the next chapter on wintering nodes. The following section is not necessary for the migratory network but details how to covert genoscape rasters to polygons if the mignette user is interested in doing so.

#### 7.1.3 Genoscape polygons

Using the genoscape rasters we will convert them to polygons, using the handy scape\_to\_shape() function. The prob\_threshold parameter specifies the value to determine if a raster cell is included in the polygon for that genoscape. This value should be customized for different species to check for overlap of genoscape polygons, which is not desirable. Setting too high of a threshold will create very small breeding nodes, while too low of a threshold will result in large, overlapping breeding nodes.

Check out the polygons

#### 7.1. BREEDING NODES



31

32CHAPTER 7. SUPPLEMENT: AVIAN ABUNDANCE DATA AND GENETIC BREEDING NODES

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