

## Simultaneous modelling of movement, measurement error, and observer dependence in double-observer distance sampling surveys

**Abstract:** Wildlife researchers often use detections, non-detections and recorded distances of animals encountered in transect surveys to estimate abundance. However, commonly available distance sampling estimators require that distances to target animals are made without error and that animals are stationary while sampling is being conducted. In practice these requirements are often violated. In this paper, we describe a marginal likelihood framework for estimating abundance from double-observer data that can accommodate movement and measurement error. In particular, we suppose that two observers independently detect and record binned distances to observed animal groups, and that they record a binary indicator for whether animals were moving or not. Under this framework, stationary animals are subject to measurement error and moving animals are subject to both movement and measurement error. Integrating over unknown animal locations, we construct a marginal likelihood for detection, movement, and measurement error parameters. Estimates of animal abundance can then be obtained using a modified Horvitz-Thompson-like estimator. In addition, unmodelled heterogeneity in detection probability can be accommodated through observer dependence parameters. Using simulation, we show that our approach yields low bias compared to approaches that ignore movement and/or measurement error, including in cases where there is considerable detection heterogeneity. We demonstrate our approach using data from a double-observer waterfowl

22 helicopter survey.

23     **Key words:** aerial survey, mark-recapture distance sampling, measure-  
24 ment error, movement, point independence

## 25   1   Introduction

26 Distance sampling surveys (Burnham et al., 1980; Buckland et al., 2001) are  
27 often used to estimate the abundance of wildlife populations. Historically,  
28 such surveys were conducted by a single observer who followed a transect  
29 line and recorded the perpendicular distance to each detected animal group.  
30 Assuming 100% detection on the transect line, models can be fitted to these  
31 data that estimate abundance over the surveyed area while accounting for  
32 detection probabilities that decline with distance from the transect line.

33     More recently, investigators discovered that double-observer surveys have  
34 some large advantages over single-observer surveys. For instance, one can  
35 use records of detection/non-detection to relax the assumption of perfect de-  
36 tection on the transect line (Borchers et al., 1998), a crucial development  
37 for many species and sampling situations (e.g. aerial surveys). Analysis  
38 of double-observer distance data is now canonically referred to as “mark-  
39 recapture distance sampling” (MRDS; Laake and Borchers, 2004) because  
40 there is a detection history (i.e. binary detection/nondetection records for  
41 each observer) in addition to recorded distances. Analysis of these histories  
42 can be done in a manner similar to a two sample mark-recapture experi-

ment, although this approach ignores additional information about observer dependence implicitly included in the distribution of observed distances.

Several observer configurations are possible within an MRDS estimation framework (Burt et al., 2014). In an “independent” configuration, observers can detect animals independently of one another. Under this configuration it is possible to try to account for heterogeneity in detection probabilities (e.g. visual distinctiveness of different animal groups) by modelling lack of fit between the distribution of observed distances and estimated detection probabilities as a function of distance (Laake and Borchers, 2004; Borchers et al., 2006; Buckland et al., 2010). The ability to account for such heterogeneity is important, since abundance estimators are negatively biased otherwise. Alternatively, in a “trial” configuration (Laake and Borchers, 2004), one observer searches ahead, while another searches closer to the survey platform. Under this configuration, detections by the first observer are used as trials for the second observer. Collecting data in this manner can be used to reduce bias associated with responsive movement of animals (which often positively biases abundance estimators), but one can no longer model heterogeneity in detection probability (Burt et al., 2014).

In this paper, we develop an integrated likelihood framework to account for movement and measurement error using an independent observer MRDS configuration. Our objective is to account for the biasing effects of measurement error and responsive movement while also being able to model individual heterogeneity through an observer dependence specification. Al-

66 though Glennie et al. (2015) showed movement could cause considerable bias  
67 in distance-based abundance estimators, we have not found any papers that  
68 attempt to explicitly model movement though a number of authors have  
69 proposed models that account for measurement error in specific distance  
70 sampling applications (see e.g. Borchers et al., 2010, and references therein).

71 The remainder of this article is structured as follows. First, we describe  
72 a motivating data set, in which distance, detection histories, and individ-  
73 ual covariates are assembled from a double-observer waterfowl aerial survey.  
74 Second, we describe a maximum marginal likelihood (MML) framework for  
75 analyzing these data. Under this framework, animal locations are treated as  
76 latent variables. Next, we illustrate our method by analyzing the waterfowl  
77 data set and examine estimator performance with two simulation studies.  
78 We conclude with a short discussion.

## 79 **2 Waterfowl data**

80 In June of 2014, biologists conducted a pilot double-observer helicopter (BELL  
81 206L on floats) survey of Arctic bird species in the Queen Maud Gulf Mi-  
82 gratory Bird Sanctuary (Nunavut, Canada). The birds surveyed were pre-  
83 dominantly waterfowl, but also included cranes and ptarmigan; we refer to  
84 them collectively as waterfowl for the remainder of the paper. The purpose  
85 of this particular survey was not to estimate abundance. Rather, researchers  
86 were interested in comparing estimates of detection probability from double-

87 observer survey methods to those using single-observer methods. The survey  
88 is described in greater detail elsewhere (Alisauskas and Conn, 2017), but we  
89 briefly provide information relevant to the analysis conducted later in this  
90 paper.

91 During the survey, two observers on the same (left) side of the heli-  
92 copter independently detected and recorded the perpendicular distance from  
93 the transect line to each bird group they observed. Distances were binned  
94 into 6 classes: 0-40m, 40-80m, 80-120m, 120-160m, 160-200m, and 200m+.  
95 They also recorded species, the number of waterfowl in each detected group  
96 (“group”), and a binary indicator for whether the waterfowl group was flap-  
97 ping their wings (“moving”). These data were previously analyzed by Al-  
98 isauskas and Conn (2017), who used standard MRDS methods that ignored  
99 movement and measurement error in their analysis. Their analysis suggested  
100 higher detection probabilities for moving individuals, larger group sizes, and  
101 for the front seat observer (relative to a rear seat observer). They also esti-  
102 mated similar species effects on detection for 7 of the 9 species analyzed; here,  
103 we pool detections of these 7 species (Canada goose, king eider, long tailed  
104 duck, northern pintail, rock patarmigan, sandhill crane, and white fronted  
105 goose) to form an illustrative dataset. This protocol led to a total of 964  
106 unique waterfowl group detections; 359 were detected by both observers, 348  
107 by the front observer only, and 257 by the back observer only. Note that the  
108 back observer’s view of the first distance bin nearest the transect line was  
109 partially obstructed by the left helicopter float. A plot of observed distance

110 deviations suggested asymmetrical responsive movement (away) from the air-  
 111 craft for nonstationary animal groups. There were also some minor distance  
 112 discrepancies for animal groups that were not moving, which is suggestive of  
 113 measurement error (Fig. 1). Hence, our objectives were to build models that  
 114 formally account for movement and measurement error processes.

### 115 **3 Model development**

116 Consider a double-observer MRDS survey where each observer records binned  
 117 distances to detected animal groups, independently of the other observer, and  
 118 a total of  $n$  animal groups are encountered by at least one observer (see Ta-  
 119 ble 1 for a complete list of notation). We develop a two stage approach  
 120 for estimating abundance in the surveyed area from such data. In the first  
 121 step, a MML framework is used to simultaneously estimate parameters of  
 122 detection, movement, and measurement error processes. In the second, a  
 123 Horvitz-Thompson-like estimator is used to estimate abundance conditioned  
 124 on parameter estimates from step 1 (a bootstrap procedure is used to quan-  
 125 tify precision). For purposes of this paper we do not explicitly consider the  
 126 problem of extrapolating abundance/density to a larger region (e.g. to un-  
 127 surveyed locations), although this would be a natural extension in applied  
 128 situations; we touch on this issue in the Discussion.

129 In MRDS surveys with binned distances, observers record animals as  
 130 occurring in one of  $n_S$  perpendicular distance bins,  $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{S}_1, \mathcal{S}_2, \dots, \mathcal{S}_{n_S}$ . De-

131 tection probability typically decreases with distance from the transect line,  
 132 and the maximum distance bin is often set such that animals further away  
 133 are poorly detected and can be ignored without greatly affecting precision of  
 134 abundance estimates. Movement and measurement error introduce compli-  
 135 cations: animals can potentially move into or out of  $\mathcal{S}$ , and animals outside  
 136 of  $\mathcal{S}$  can be detected in  $\mathcal{S}$ . For these reasons, the models we develop rely  
 137 on augmenting  $\mathcal{S}$  with additional distance bins to allow for movement and  
 138 measurement error (Fig. 2). Call this augmented set  $\mathcal{Z}$ .

139 Let  $y_{oi}$  be a binary indicator for whether or not the  $i$ th animal group was  
 140 detected by observer  $o$ . Similarly, let  $d_{oi}$  denote the distance bin recorded  
 141 by observer  $o$  for animal group  $i$  (note  $d_{oi}$  is only defined when  $y_{oi} = 1$ ).  
 142 Letting bold lower case symbols denote vectors (e.g.  $\mathbf{y}_o$  gives a sequence of  
 143 detections for observer  $o$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) and bold upper case symbols denote  
 144 matrices (e.g.  $\mathbf{Y}$  is  $(2 \times n)$  matrix of all detection/nondetections), we seek to  
 145 define a marginal likelihood  $[\boldsymbol{\theta} | \mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{D}, \mathbf{X}]$ , where  $\boldsymbol{\theta} = \{\boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\varphi}\}$  are parameters  
 146 describing probabilities of detection, movement, and measurement error, and  
 147  $\mathbf{X}$  include individual covariates collected for each animal group that can be  
 148 used to explain variation in detection probabilities.

### 149 **3.1 Likelihood**

150 To construct such a likelihood, we start with the general framework proposed  
 151 by Borchers et al. (2015) for spatial mark-recapture and distance sampling  
 152 surveys. Conditioning on detection, Borchers et al. (2015) suggested that

the joint distribution of animal locations and detections could be written as a product of (1) a joint probability density function (pdf) for the latent locations of animals, and (2) a joint probability mass function (pmf) for the encounter histories conditional on location. We expand upon this framework to allow movement to affect the distribution of animal locations and to incorporate a measurement error mechanism.

Letting  $\mathbf{z}_o$  denote the true locations of animals when they enter the field of view of observer  $o$ , we write the joint probability mass function of observed data as a product of

1.  $[\mathbf{Z}|\boldsymbol{\theta}]$ , a bivariate probability mass function for the distribution of true animal locations, given detection by at least one observer; and
2.  $[\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{D}|\mathbf{Z}, \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{X}]$ , a model for binary detections and observed distances given true unobserved locations and individual detection covariates.

If we knew the true locations of observed animals, we could simply base inference on the likelihood

$$[\boldsymbol{\theta}|\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{D}, \mathbf{X}] \propto [\mathbf{Z}|\boldsymbol{\theta}][\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{D}|\mathbf{Z}, \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{X}].$$

However, we do not know the actual animal locations so instead integrate (sum) over an augmented set of distance bins  $\mathcal{Z}$  that could plausibly have resulted in a detection (see *Distribution of animal locations* for more discussion of bin augmentation). As such, we write the joint marginal likelihood



172 of detection, movement, and measurement error parameters as

$$[\boldsymbol{\theta}|\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{D}, \mathbf{X}] \propto \prod_i \left( \sum_{z_{i1} \in \mathcal{Z}} \sum_{z_{i2} \in \mathcal{Z}} [\mathbf{z}_{i\cdot}|\boldsymbol{\theta}] [\mathbf{y}_{i\cdot}, \mathbf{d}_{i\cdot}|\mathbf{z}_{i\cdot}, \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{x}_i] \right). \quad (1)$$

173 We now describe each of the likelihood components in further detail.

### 174 3.1.1 Distribution of animal locations

175 The first component of the likelihood (Eqn. 1) is the joint probability mass  
 176 function for the locations of group  $i$ ,  $[\mathbf{z}_{i\cdot}|\boldsymbol{\theta}]$  given detection by at least one  
 177 observer. We write this distribution as a function of (i) an initial state distri-  
 178 bution,  $[z_{i1}]$ ; (ii) a movement kernel,  $[z_{i2}|z_{i1}, \boldsymbol{\phi}]$ ; and (iii) detection probability  
 179 by at least one observer,  $p_i^*(z_{i1}, z_{i2}|\mathbf{x}_i, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\varphi})$ . Specifically, we set

$$[\mathbf{z}_{i\cdot}|\boldsymbol{\theta}] \propto [z_{i1}][z_{i2}|z_{i1}, \boldsymbol{\phi}] p_i^*(z_{i1}, z_{i2}|\mathbf{x}_i, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\varphi}).$$

180 We make the assumption that the first observer (typically in a front seat)  
 181 detects animal groups before movement out of the initial distance bin has  
 182 occurred. Under this assumption, random placement of transect lines should  
 183 help ensure that perpendicular distances of animals from the transect line are  
 184 uniformly distributed in space (cf. Buckland et al., 2001). Letting  $\pi_j$  denote  
 185 the proportional diameter of distance bin  $j$  (i.e.  $\pi_j = a_j / \sum_k a_k$  where  $a_j$  is  
 186 the diameter of of distance bin  $j$ ), we simply have

$$[z_{i1}] = \text{Categorical}(\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_{n_{\mathcal{Z}}}),$$

187 where it is understood that “Categorical” denotes a multinomial distribution  
 188 with index 1, and  $n_{\mathcal{Z}}$  is the number of latent distance bins.

189 Next, the bivariate movement pmf  $[z_{i2}|z_{i1}, \phi]$  describes the location of  
 190 animal group  $i$  when it enters the field of view of observer 2 as a function of  
 191 the location when it was in the field of view of observer 1. We model this as  
 192 another categorical distribution:

$$[z_{i2}|z_{i1}, \phi] = \text{Categorical}(\psi(z_{i1}, 1), \psi(z_{i1}, 2), \dots, \psi(z_{i1}, n_{\mathcal{Z}})). \quad (2)$$

193 For applications in this paper, we parameterize the movement transition  
 194 probabilities  $\psi$  using asymmetric kernels  $k$  (e.g. Fig 3). Using an asymmetric  
 195 kernel can allow movement rates to be different toward and away from the  
 196 transect line (anticipating a behavioral response to the survey platform). In  
 197 particular, we set

$$198 \quad \psi(z_{i1}, z_{i2}) \propto k(z_{i1}, z_{i2}|\phi), \text{ where} \quad (3)$$

199

$$200 \quad k(z_{i1}, z_{i2}|\phi) = \begin{cases} f(\delta_{i2}|\mu = \delta_{i1}, \sigma = \phi_1) & z_{i2} < z_{i1}, m_i = 1 \\ f(\delta_{i2}|\mu = \delta_{i1}, \sigma = \phi_2) & z_{i2} \geq z_{i1}, m_i = 1 \\ 1.0 & z_{i2} = z_{i1}, m_i = 0 \\ 0.0 & z_{i2} \neq z_{i1}, m_i = 0 \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

201 Here,  $f()$  gives a probability density function; in our examples, we consider

202 Laplace (double exponential) and Gaussian distributions as choices for  $f()$ .  
 203 Note that  $\delta_{io}$  gives the perpendicular distance from the transect line to the  
 204 midpoint of distance bin  $z_{io}$ . Also note that we assume that stationary  
 205 animals (i.e. with  $m_i = 0$ ) do not change distance bins.

206 Finally, the thinning probability  $p_i^*(z_{i1}, z_{i2} | \mathbf{x}_i, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\varphi})$  describes the prob-  
 207 ability of being detected by at least one observer for an animal that is in  
 208 distance bin  $z_{i1}$  at time 1 and  $z_{i2}$  at time 2. For generality, we calculate  
 209 probability as the sum of obtaining one of the three possible detection histo-  
 210 ries: 11, 10, or 01 (detected by both observers, detected by the front observer  
 211 but not the back, or detected by the back observer but not the front). In  
 212 particular,

$$\begin{aligned} p_i^*(z_{i1}, z_{i2} | \mathbf{x}_i, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\varphi}) &= p_{i1}(z_{i1})\omega(z_{i1}, \mathcal{S})p_{i2}(z_{i2})\omega(z_{i2}, \mathcal{S}) + \\ &\quad p_{i1}(z_{i1})\omega(z_{i1}, \mathcal{S}) [p_{i2}(z_{i2})(1 - \omega(z_{i2}, \mathcal{S})) + (1 - p_{i2}(z_{i2}))] + \\ &\quad p_{i2}(z_{i2})\omega(z_{i2}, \mathcal{S}) [p_{i1}(z_{i1})(1 - \omega(z_{i1}, \mathcal{S})) + (1 - p_{i1}(z_{i1}))]. \end{aligned}$$

213 This expression is slightly different than typically encountered in mark-  
 214 recapture calculus, as one must account for two ways of getting a 0 in a  
 215 capture history: an observer can miss the animal group, or an observer can  
 216 detect the group but determine it is out of the truncation range of the tran-  
 217 sect (i.e.  $\notin \mathcal{S}$ ). To account for the latter possibility, we make use of the  
 218 measurement error kernel  $\omega$ , which can be parameterized similarly to  $\boldsymbol{\phi}$  (see  
 219 Eqs. 3-4). In applications in the paper, we consider use of symmetric kernels

220 (Gaussian or Laplace) with a single dispersion parameter,  $\varphi$ . Our expression  
 221 for  $p_i^*$  also relies on individual- and observer-dependent detection probabili-  
 222 ties,  $p_{io}(z_{io})$ . In order to impart meaningful variation in detection probability,  
 223 it is useful to express these in a regression framework on a logit-linear scale,  
 224 such that

$$\text{logit}(\mathbf{p}) = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}. \quad (5)$$

225 Note that we write  $p_{io}$  as a function of  $z_{io}$  to emphasize that the design matrix  
 226  $\mathbf{X}$  will often depend on distance from the transect line (a latent quantity).

### 227 **3.1.2 Likelihood of observed detections**

228 The next component of the the likelihood is  $[\mathbf{y}_i, \mathbf{d}_i | \mathbf{z}_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{x}_i]$ , the probabil-  
 229 ity of observing the particular detection history and distance bin values for  
 230 animal group  $i$  conditional on true location. Conditional on detection by at  
 231 least one observer, there are again three possible types of encounter histories:  
 232 '11', '10', or '01'. For '11' histories, there are  $n_S^2$  combinations of possible  
 233 recorded distance bins; for '10' histories, there are  $n_S$  distance bins possible  
 234 for observer 1; for '01' histories, there are  $n_S$  distance bins possible for ob-  
 235 server 2. Thus, we can view  $[\mathbf{y}_i, \mathbf{d}_i | \mathbf{z}_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{x}_i]$  as a multinomial distribution  
 236 with index 1 and  $n_S^2 + 2n_S$  possible outcomes. The likelihood contribution

237 for a particular animal group  $i$  can thus be written as

$$(p_i^*)^{-1} \times \begin{cases} p_{i1}(z_{i1})\omega(z_{i1}, d_{i1})p_{i2}(z_{i2})\omega(z_{i2}, d_{i2}) & \text{if } y_{i1} = y_{i2} = 1 \\ p_{i1}(z_{i1})\omega(z_{i1}, d_{i1}) [p_{i2}(z_{i2})(1 - \omega(z_{i2}, \mathcal{S})) + (1 - p_{i2}(z_{i2}))] & \text{if } y_{i1} = 1, y_{i2} = 0 \\ p_{i2}(z_{i2})\omega(z_{i2}, d_{i2}) [p_{i1}(z_{i1})(1 - \omega(z_{i1}, \mathcal{S})) + (1 - p_{i1}(z_{i1}))] & \text{if } y_{i1} = 0, y_{i2} = 1. \end{cases}$$

### 238 **3.2 Horvitz-Thompson-like abundance estimator**

239 Minimizing the negative log-likelihood in Eqn. 1 provides marginal maxi-  
 240 mum likelihood estimates for detection, movement, and measurement error  
 241 parameters, but does not provide a direct estimate of animal abundance,  $N$ .  
 242 We developed a Horvitz-Thompson-like procedure to calculate abundance  
 243 estimates, as is common in distance sampling literature (see e.g. Buckland  
 244 et al., 2004). This is especially useful when coping with detection probabili-  
 245 ties that vary as a function of individual detection covariates, as one does not  
 246 need to model covariate values for undetected animal groups. For instance,  
 247 in standard MRDS applications, one might estimate abundance as

$$\hat{N} = \sum_{i=1}^n g_i / p_i^*.$$

248 However, direct application of this estimator is clearly inappropriate under  
 249 movement and measurement error, as it can potentially include animals out-  
 250 side of the surveyed area, or include animals that move into the surveyed  
 251 area.

252 Since distance sampling produces estimates of abundance at a single point

253 in time, we must first define the time and area for which the estimate ap-  
 254 plies before constructing an appropriate estimator. In the case of responsive  
 255 movement away from a survey platform, we are better off referencing abun-  
 256 dance relative to the position of animals when they enter the field of view  
 257 of observer 1 than we are for observer 2. Also, since analysis only uses ani-  
 258 mals perceived to be in  $\mathcal{S}$ , it may be best to limit the scope of inference to  
 259 those animals that truly occur in  $\mathcal{S}$ . We construct a Horvitz-Thompson-like  
 260 estimator for abundance in the surveyed region  $\mathcal{S}$  at time 1 as follows:

$$\hat{N}|\boldsymbol{\theta} = \sum_i \sum_{z_{i1} \in \mathcal{S}} \sum_{z_{i2} \in \mathcal{Z}} \frac{g_i \times [\mathbf{z}_i | \boldsymbol{\theta}]}{p_i^*(z_{i1}, z_{i2})}. \quad (6)$$

261 This formulation integrates over the latent position of animal groups at times  
 262 1 and 2 with the restriction that the position at time 1 is within  $\mathcal{S}$ .

263 To produce estimates of precision and confidence limits, we implemented a  
 264 parametric bootstrap procedure. In particular, we approximate the sampling  
 265 distribution of parameter estimates as

$$[\boldsymbol{\theta}_{boot}] = \text{Multivariate Normal}(\boldsymbol{\theta}_{MLE}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}),$$

266 where  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$  is a covariance matrix calculated as the inverse Hessian matrix  
 267 of the likelihood evaluated at the MLE estimates. Then, for each of  $k =$   
 268  $1, 2, \dots, n_{boot}$  replicates, we

- 269 1. Sample  $\boldsymbol{\theta}_k \sim [\boldsymbol{\theta}_{boot}]$ ,
- 270 2. Transform  $\boldsymbol{\theta}_k$  into real-scale parameters using inverse link functions,

271 3. Calculate  $\hat{N}_k^{boot}$  using Eqn. 6.

272 We then use quantiles of  $\hat{N}_k^{boot}$  to represent confidence intervals and calculate  
273  $\hat{\text{Var}}(\hat{N})$  as  $\text{Var}(\hat{N}^{boot})$ .

### 274 3.3 Extension to incorporate detection heterogeneity

275 So far, we have not attempted to model detection heterogeneity outside of  
276 individual covariates (e.g. through Eqn. 5). However, it is common knowl-  
277 edge that other factors (e.g. variation in plumage, lighting, topography,  
278 background, etc.) can affect the distinctiveness of different animal groups  
279 and impart additional heterogeneity leading to (often positive) dependence  
280 in observer detection and thus negative bias in  $\hat{N}$  (Laake and Borchers, 2004;  
281 Buckland et al., 2010; Burt et al., 2014).

282 In traditional MRDS applications (i.e. without movement and measure-  
283 ment error), one approach is to correct for this bias by estimating observer  
284 dependence parameters, typically through inclusion of an additional proba-  
285 bility density function for observed distances in the likelihood (cf. Buckland  
286 et al., 2010). However, inclusion of such a pdf in our likelihood appears prob-  
287 lematic, as movement alters interpretation of distance distributions (Burt  
288 et al., 2014). Alternatively, MacKenzie and Clement (2016) suggested that  
289 observer dependence could also be included by modeling *conditional* detec-  
290 tion probabilities; that is, including detection by one observer as a covariate  
291 for detection of the other. For instance, detection probabilities could poten-

292 tially be written as a logit-linear function of an autocovariate  $\xi_{io} = y_{i,3-o}$ .  
 293 We adapt this latter idea as a way to accommodate detection heterogeneity  
 294 in data subject to movement and measurement error.

295 The major complication with using a detection autocovariate as a pre-  
 296 dictor in our case is that we are no longer able to say that an animal group  
 297 with  $y_{io} = 0$  was actually undetected by observer  $o$ . It could, for instance,  
 298 have been detected but determined to not be in  $\mathcal{S}$ . As such, we view the au-  
 299 tocovariate  $\xi_{io}$  as a latent variable. If  $y_{io} = 1$ , then  $\xi_{i,3-i} = 1$  with certainty;  
 300 however, if  $y_{io} = 0$  we do not know whether  $\xi_{i,3-i}$  is 0 or 1. Summing over  
 301 each encounter history type (11,01, or 10) subject to uncertainty about  $\xi_{io}$ ,  
 302 we now need to calculate the probability of being observed by at least one  
 303 observer as

$$\begin{aligned}
 p_i^*(z_{i1}, z_{i2} | \mathbf{x}_i, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\varphi}) &= p_{i1}(z_{i1} | \xi_{i1} = 1) \omega(z_{i1}, \mathcal{S}) p_{i2}(z_{i2} | \xi_{i2} = 1) \omega(z_{i2}, \mathcal{S}) + \\
 &\quad p_{i1}(z_{i1} | \xi_{i1} = 0) \omega(z_{i1}, \mathcal{S}) (1 - p_{i2}(z_{i2} | \xi_{i2} = 1)) + \\
 &\quad p_{i1}(z_{i1} | \xi_{i1} = 1) \omega(z_{i1}, \mathcal{S}) p_{i2}(z_{i2} | \xi_{i2} = 1) (1 - \omega(z_{i2}, \mathcal{S})) + \\
 &\quad p_{i2}(z_{i2} | \xi_{i2} = 0) \omega(z_{i2}, \mathcal{S}) (1 - p_{i1}(z_{i1} | \xi_{i1} = 1)) + \\
 &\quad p_{i2}(z_{i2} | \xi_{i2} = 1) \omega(z_{i2}, \mathcal{S}) p_{i1}(z_{i1} | \xi_{i1} = 1) (1 - \omega(z_{i1}, \mathcal{S})).
 \end{aligned}$$

304 We adopt a similar construct for the observation model,  $[\mathbf{y}_i, \mathbf{d}_i | \mathbf{z}_i, \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{x}_i]$ ,  
 305 recasting the likelihood contribution for animal group  $i$  as follows according  
 306 to their detection histories:

- 307 •  $y_{i1} = y_{i2} = 1$ :



$$(p_i^*)^{-1} p_{i1}(z_{i1}|\xi_{i1} = 1)\omega(z_{i1}, d_{i1})p_{i2}(z_{i2}|\xi_{i1} = 1)\omega(z_{i2}, d_{i2})$$

$$\bullet \text{ } \underline{y_{i1} = 1, y_{i2} = 0:}$$

$$p_{i1}(z_{i1}|\xi_{i1} = 1)\omega(z_{i1}, d_{i1})p_{i2}(z_{i2}|\xi_{i2} = 1)(1 - \omega(z_{i2}, \mathcal{S})) +$$

$$p_{i1}(z_{i1}|\xi_{i1} = 0)\omega(z_{i1}, d_{i1})(1 - p_{i2}(z_{i2}|\xi_{i2} = 1))$$

$$\bullet \text{ } \underline{y_{i1} = 0, y_{i2} = 1:}$$

$$p_{i2}(z_{i2}|\xi_{i2} = 1)\omega(z_{i2}, d_{i2})p_{i1}(z_{i1}|\xi_{i1} = 1)(1 - \omega(z_{i1}, \mathcal{S})) +$$

$$p_{i2}(z_{i2}|\xi_{i2} = 0)\omega(z_{i2}, d_{i2})(1 - p_{i1}(z_{i1}|\xi_{i1} = 1))$$

Following these adjustments, we use the “symmetric” parameterization (MacKenzie and Clement, 2016) of observer dependence to include  $\xi_{io}$  in the logit-linear model for  $p_{io}$ . For instance, point independence (Laake and Borchers, 2004; Buckland et al., 2010), where observers are assumed to detect animal groups independently near the transect line but to have increasing dependence with distance, can be implemented by including an interaction between  $z_{io}$  and  $\xi_{io}$  with no main effect for  $\xi_{io}$ . Alternatively, limiting dependence (Buckland et al., 2010), where there is a base level of dependence on or near the transect line, can be implemented by including a main effect for  $\xi_{io}$  in addition to the interaction (MacKenzie and Clement, 2016).

### 3.4 Goodness-of-fit

Goodness-of-fit is often summarized with  $\chi^2$  tests when distance data are binned (Burnham et al., 2004). However, this depends on having adequate sample sizes and homogeneous probabilities of detection within classes of

329 animals. This latter requirement is problematic when detection probability  
 330 is written in terms of individual covariates. In order to get around this  
 331 problem, we developed a simulation-based goodness-of-fit procedure similar  
 332 in spirit to posterior predictive checks used in Bayesian analysis (e.g. Gelman  
 333 et al., 2014). Our procedure consists of

- 334 1. Sampling  $\boldsymbol{\theta}_k \sim [\boldsymbol{\theta}_{boot}]$ ,
- 335 2. Simulating new data  $(\mathbf{d}_k, \mathbf{y}_i)$  from  $[\mathbf{d}_k, \mathbf{y}_k | \mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\theta}_k]$ .
- 336 3. Calculating a discrepancy measure  $T(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{d}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$  to compare the observed  
 337 data to data simulated under the model.

338 For instance, we might compute the proportion of observations that occur  
 339 in each distance bin when subset by various explanatory variables for our  
 340 observed data and compare these to the distribution of proportions that we  
 341 obtain by simulating data from our model when all assumptions are met. For  
 342 some specific examples, see section 4.

### 343 3.5 Computing

344 We conducted MML inference in the R programming environment (R De-  
 345 velopment Core Team, 2016). We have collated all code and data needed to  
 346 recreate our analyses into an R package, **MRDSmove**. The package is currently  
 347 available at <https://github.com/pconn/MRDSmove/releases> and will be  
 348 archived on a publicly available data repository upon manuscript acceptance.

## 349 4 Analysis of waterfowl data

350 We fitted 12 MML models to our waterfowl data, varying by (1) movement  
351 and measurement kernel type (Gaussian vs. Laplace), (2) observer depen-  
352 dence type (none; point independence, or limiting independence), and (3)  
353 whether or not moving individuals had a different distance function than  
354 individuals that were not moving (Table 2). We calculated marginal AIC to  
355 select among these models. We also fitted two Huggins-Alho (HA; Huggins,  
356 1989; Alho, 1990) models to our data using program MARK (White and  
357 Burnham, 1999) via an RMark (Laake, 2013) interface. The HA models sup-  
358 pose independent detection of observers and do not account for movement  
359 or measurement error; abundance estimates are generated with a Horvitz-  
360 Thompson-like procedure. The two HA models had the same structure but  
361 differed in how data were formatted: in the first (HA1), distance was set  
362 to  $d_{i1}$  whenever  $d_{i1} \neq d_{i2}$ ; in the second (HA2), conflicting distance mea-  
363 surements were averaged. For the HA models, detection probability was set  
364 to the structure on the MML model with the best AIC score. All models  
365 included the following predictors within the logit-linear model for detection  
366 probability: group size, moving/not moving, observer (front vs. back), dis-  
367 tance, distance<sup>2</sup>, and an interaction between the distance effects and the  
368 observer effects. The latter interaction was included because the view of the  
369 first distance bin was partially obstructed for observer 2 whose distance dis-  
370 tribution appeared to peak further away from the helicopter (see Alisauskas

371 and Conn, 2017).

372 AIC strongly favored models with Laplace movement and measurement  
373 error kernels (Fig. 3) over Gaussian kernels, although the impact of the func-  
374 tional form of the kernel on resultant abundance estimates was quite small  
375 (Table 2). The highest ranked model had an interaction between distance and  
376 moving/not moving, suggesting different detection function shapes for mov-  
377 ing vs. stationary animals. However, pairwise model comparisons with and  
378 without such an effect had similar AIC scores, so this effect was likely small  
379 (also see Fig. 4). Point and limiting independence models were favored over  
380 full independence models, suggesting some level of detection heterogeneity  
381 that was not captured via gathered covariates.

382 The form of dependence had large effects on abundance estimates and  
383 accompanying standard errors. In general, ‘li’ models produced the smallest  
384 estimates ( $\hat{G} = 1122$  to  $1130$ ), ‘fi’ models produced the next highest esti-  
385 mates ( $\hat{G} = 1244$  to  $1259$ ), and ‘pi’ models produced the highest estimates  
386 ( $\hat{G} = 1394$  to  $1519$ ; Table 2). Models with similar support often produced  
387 estimates of abundance that were quite different. For instance, the top two  
388 models (including a pi model and an li model) were only 1.2 AIC units apart  
389 but produced estimates of  $\hat{G} = 1519$  and  $\hat{G} = 1122$ , respectively. The ‘pi’  
390 models predict increasing observer dependence with distance, while the ‘li’  
391 models suggested strongly negative observer dependence near the transect  
392 line which linearly increased to positive dependence in distance bin 5 and  
393 beyond. This latter type of observer dependence could occur if observers

394 have different fields of view and are likely to detect different animal groups  
395 close to the aircraft, but are more likely to see the same animals (presumably  
396 the highly distinctive ones) farther away.

397 Plots of movement and measurement error kernels (Fig. 3) for the highest  
398 ranked model resembled raw data histograms (Fig. 1). However, inclusion  
399 of movement and measurement error in the model did not appear to largely  
400 affect abundance estimates. For instance, HA1 and HA2 (the models with-  
401 out movement or measurement error) produced estimates of 1239 and 1278  
402 waterfowl groups, respectively. By comparison, the 4 ‘fi’ models (which, like  
403 the HA models, presume conditional independence in observer detections),  
404 produced estimates of 1244-1259. In our example, it seemed far more im-  
405 portant to account for different types of observer dependence. If an estimate  
406 were needed for management or conservation purposes, it would be wise  
407 to compute a model averaged estimate that incorporates uncertainty about  
408 the correction functional form of observer dependence (as well as attendant  
409 standard errors, which are much higher for ‘li’ and ‘pi’ models than for ‘fi’  
410 models). We note that several of the ‘li’ models did not converge, a rela-  
411 tively frequent occurrence when fitting MRDS models Buckland et al. (2010);  
412 MacKenzie and Clement (2016).

413 To examine fit of our model to the data, we compared the properties of  
414 our MRDS dataset to 1000 data sets simulated from the highest ranked AIC  
415 model. In general, data sets simulated under our model had similar propor-  
416 tions of animals observed in the five distance bin classes as we observed in the

417 field (Fig. 4). A notable exception was a tendency to overpredict the propor-  
 418 tion of moving animals in distance bin 3. We are unsure of the reason for this  
 419 behavior, but have resisted the urge to consider more highly parameterized  
 420 structures since a smooth decrease in the number of animals encountered as  
 421 a function of distance is often expected a priori (Buckland et al., 2001), and  
 422 it would be difficult to fit this particular “dip” in our distance data without  
 423 making the detection model multimodal. Our model did a reasonable job  
 424 in replicating the proportions of animals with each detection history type  
 425 observed in the field. For instance, the number of ‘11’, ‘10’ and ‘01’ histo-  
 426 ries compiled for moving animals was 289, 261, and 179, respectively; these  
 427 compared to 95% simulation intervals of (257,307), (227,276), and (173,219).  
 428 For stationary animals, we observed 64 ‘11’, 92 ‘10’ and 79 ‘01’ histories  
 429 compared to simulation intervals of (53,80), (74,103), and (68,95).

## 430 **5 Simulation studies**

431 We conducted two simulation studies to investigate bias, precision, and con-  
 432 fidence interval coverage of our MML models and compared these to other  
 433 MRDS analyses that do not account for movement and measurement er-  
 434 ror. The first simulation study assumed independence between observer de-  
 435 tections (i.e., no residual detection heterogeneity). The second experiment  
 436 focused on performance of different approaches to estimation when hetero-  
 437 geneous detection probabilities were simulated using random effects.

## 438 5.1 Simulation study I: Basic model performance

439 Our first simulation study was designed to look at estimator performance  
440 over different movement and measurement error rates, and only considering  
441 variation imparted by measurable covariates. For this study, we simulated  
442 three different Gaussian movement kernel (Eqn. 4) scenarios, corresponding  
443 to (i) no movement ( $\phi_1 = \phi_2 = 0$ ), (ii) symmetric movement ( $\phi_1 = \phi_2 = 0.7$ ),  
444 and (iii) asymmetric movement with much higher rates of movement away  
445 from the transect line than towards the transect line ( $\phi_1 = 0.5, \phi_2 = 1.5$ ).  
446 We considered two levels of measurement error for each movement scenario:  
447 no measurement error, or moderate measurement error ( $\varphi = 0.5$ ).

448 In each of 500 simulations for the 6 movement and measurement error  
449 scenarios, we conducted the following steps:

- 450 1. For each of  $i \in 1, 2, \dots, 1000$  animals, we simulated an initial, latent  
451 position  $z_{i1}$  in 10 equally sized distance bins using a uniform distribu-  
452 tion.
- 453 2. After generating  $m_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(0.75)$  (so that approximately 75% of  
454 animals were moving), we simulated  $z_{i2}$  using Eqn. 2. For animals with  
455  $m_i = 0$ , we simply set  $z_{i2} = z_{i1}$ .
- 456 3. We simulated  $y_{io}$  and  $d_{io}$  using detection and measurement error mod-  
457 els, where the first five distance bins were subject to observation (i.e.

458  $\mathcal{S} = \{\mathcal{Z}_1, \mathcal{Z}_2, \dots, \mathcal{Z}_5\}$ ). Detection probabilities were configured as

$$\text{logit}(p_{io}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 m_i + \beta_2 z_{io} + \beta_3 z_{io}^2,$$

459 where  $\beta_0 = 1$ ,  $\beta_1 = 0.5$ ,  $\beta_2 = 0.07$ , and  $\beta_3 = -0.09$ .

- 460 4. We fit a sequence of three models to each such data set. These included
- 461 (i) the movement and measurement error model proposed in this paper
- 462 (configured with 8 latent distance bins), as well as the two Huggins-
- 463 Alho models described in section 4. For all three estimation procedures,
- 464 we used the same structure when estimating  $p_{io}$  as used to generate the
- 465 data. For simulations where data were generated with  $\phi = 0$  or  $\varphi = 0$ ,
- 466 we fixed the corresponding parameter in the estimation model to zero
- 467 to prevent numerical errors.
- 468 5. For each model and data set, we tabulated bias in abundance (note that
- 469  $\hat{G} = \hat{N}$  since group sizes were all 1.0), coefficient of variation (CV), 95%
- 470 confidence interval coverage, and root mean square error (RMSE).

471 Note that in initial simulation work, we also fit movement and measurement

472 error models with 10 latent distance bins, finding that results were almost

473 identical to those with 8 latent distance bins (parameter estimates were often

474 within 0.0001 of each other).

475 In general, bias from our new method was zero to slightly negative,

476 while positive bias from the HA models could be substantial when move-



ment and/or measurement error occurred (up to 10%; Table 3). Precision and mean squared error were always better for the MML models than the HA models, with confidence interval coverage closer to nominal for most of the MML to HA model comparisons. However, coverage was less than nominal (85-91% for a 95% interval) for the MML models, suggesting that our bootstrap-based interval estimation procedure produced estimates of variance that were too small. Interestingly, HA1 estimates tended to have better properties (lower bias, better coverage, lower RMSE) than HA2 estimates, suggesting that taking distance values from observer 1 may be a better strategy than averaging distance values to resolve discrepancies if one cannot model movement and measurement error directly.

## 5.2 Simulation study II: Heterogeneous detection

In our second simulation scenario, we examined performance of our proposed approach when MRDS data are simulated with highly heterogeneous detection probabilities. The main structure of our simulations was largely similar to the preceding section. We considered two different movement and measurement error scenarios corresponding to none ( $\phi_1 = \phi_2 = \varphi = 0$ ) and to movement away from the survey line ( $\phi_1 = 0$ ,  $\phi_2 = 1.5$ ,  $\varphi = 0.5$ ). For each of these scenarios, we considered two different expected sample sizes in the sampled area:  $E(N) = 200$  and  $E(N) = 1000$ . In each combination of simulation replicates, we conducted 500 simulations via following steps:

- 498 1. For each of  $i \in 1, 2, \dots, 2E(N)$  animals, we simulated an initial, latent  
499 position  $z_{i1}$  in 10 equally sized distance bins using a uniform distribu-  
500 tion.
- 501 2. We generated  $m_i$  and  $z_{i2}$  as in Simulation Study 1.
- 502 3. We simulated  $d_{io}$  and  $y_{io}$  as in simulation study 1, once again using 5  
503 observable distance bins. However, we used a half-normal model for  
504 detection probability,

$$p_{io} = p_{io}^0 \frac{f(z_{io}|\mu = 1, \sigma_{io})}{f(1|\mu = 1, \sigma_{io})}$$

505 where  $p_{io}^0$  gives detection probability in the first distance bin, and the  
506 half normal model describes how detection probability declines in bins  
507 that are farther away. These models were further parameterized as

$$\begin{aligned} \text{logit}(p_{io}^0) &= \beta_0 + \beta_1 m_i, \text{ and} \\ \log(\sigma_{io}) &= \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 m_i + \epsilon_i \end{aligned}$$

508 where  $\beta_0 = \alpha_0 = 1$ ,  $\beta_1 = 0.5$ ,  $\alpha_1 = 0.2$ , and  $\epsilon_i \sim \text{Uniform}(-0.7, 0.7)$ .  
509 The half-normal model seemed a reasonable way to implement point  
510 independence (Laake and Borchers, 2004) using random effects (Fig.  
511 5).

- 512 4. We fitted four models to each such data set. These included the same

three models from Simulation Study 1, and a fourth, marginal likelihood model that attempted to estimate an observer dependence parameter in addition to movement and measurement error. Observer dependence used a point independence specification (i.e. an interaction between  $\xi_{io}$  and  $\delta_{io}$ ).

5. For each model and data set, we tabulated bias, coefficient of variation (CV), 95% confidence interval coverage, and root mean square error (RMSE).

Simulations suggested that the MML model with observer dependence did a reasonable job at estimating abundance under all scenarios (Table 3) even though the estimation model differed from the data generating model (polynomial vs. half normal detection model; observer dependence effect vs. random effects). In particular, bias was low (-0.03 to 0.03) and 95% confidence interval coverage was close to nominal (0.91 - 0.96) for all scenarios examined. In contrast, bias of models ignoring observer dependence could be considerable (up to -9%) with precision that was too high, leading to confidence interval coverage that was too low (as low as 6% in one scenario). Not surprisingly, bias was typically negative when ignoring observer dependence. However, there was a mediating effect on bias whenever data were simulated subject to both movement, measurement error, and observer dependence. Since movement and measurement error alone induce positive

535 bias, and observer dependence alone produces negative bias, both processes  
536 combined attenuated bias. For instance, HA models actually performed bet-  
537 ter when both sources of bias were present than when one source of bias was  
538 present.

## 539 **6 Discussion**

540 In this paper, we developed an approach to account for movement and mea-  
541 surement error in MRDS analyses when observers independently record dis-  
542 tances to animals, and when there is a binary covariate for movement. In  
543 simulation studies, our approach exhibited low bias and RMSE when com-  
544 pared to a procedure that ignores movement and measurement error (the  
545 latter resulted in positive biases of up to 10%). Importantly, we were able  
546 to conduct estimation even in the face of residual detection heterogeneity,  
547 which seems like a useful advance. Indeed, estimation of abundance in our  
548 field study was much more sensitive to different functional forms for observer  
549 dependence than it was to different functional forms for movement or mea-  
550 surement error.

551 Several avenues of future research are desirable. First, our bootstrap-  
552 based estimates of variance resulted in confidence interval coverage that was  
553 less than nominal in some of the simulation scenarios. A more robust method  
554 for producing confidence intervals for Horvitz-Thompson-like abundance es-  
555 timates would be useful. Second, although our focus here was on errors

556 in distances, other errors may occur (e.g. errors in group size determina-  
 557 tions, individual covariates, species, etc.). Errors in species identification  
 558 can be particularly problematic (see e.g. Conn et al., 2014) and should ul-  
 559 timately be addressed in multi-species surveys. Third, we have assumed  
 560 additive measurement error in the present development; in some situations,  
 561 multiplicative measurement error (whereby animals further away are subject  
 562 to greater measurement error; Borchers et al., 2010) may make more sense.  
 563 Finally, we have temporarily ignored the problem of expanding estimates  
 564 from the surveyed area to some larger area of inference. One approach to  
 565 expanding the scope of inference would be to include a sample inclusion prob-  
 566 ability in the denominator of the Horvitz-Thompson estimator (i.e. Eqn. 6).  
 567 Another approach would be to produce sequences of estimates for different  
 568 surveyed areas (presumably sharing detection and movement/measurement  
 569 error parameters between areas), and to use such estimates as responses for  
 570 subsequent spatial modeling efforts (see e.g. Miller et al., 2013).

571 In this paper we conditioned on binary variables  $m_i$  for whether a de-  
 572 tected group was moving or not. This approach let us separately estimate  
 573 movement from measurement error by making the assumption that animals  
 574 with  $m_i = 0$  do not move. In other situations and study taxa (e.g. many ma-  
 575 rine mammals), all animals may be moving in some fashion, and thus there  
 576 may be insufficient data to separate these processes. In these circumstances,  
 577 auxiliary data (e.g. animals with known location to estimate measurement  
 578 error; cf. Borchers et al., 2010) may be needed to implement our methods.

579 One exciting avenue for future research would be to expand our type  
 580 of modeling approach to allow movement within spatial capture-recapture  
 581 (SCR; see e.g. Borchers and Efford, 2008; Royle et al., 2013) models. The  
 582 generalized likelihood structure of MRDS and SCR is actually very similar  
 583 (Borchers et al., 2015; Borchers and Marques, 2017), so incorporating move-  
 584 ment could likely be accomplished using the same construct in the paper  
 585 (i.e. by viewing an animals' locations as unobserved latent variables and  
 586 integrating over all possible sequences of locations). The challenge would  
 587 likely be a numerical one, as space would need to be increased from one to  
 588 two dimensions and over a finer mesh, and the temporal dimension would  
 589 need to increase from two observers to a finite number of sampling occasions.  
 590 One approach to high dimensional integration would be to adopt a Bayesian  
 591 perspective within a data augmentation framework (Royle et al., 2007; Conn  
 592 et al., 2012).

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677 TABLE CAPTIONS

678 Table 1: Definitions of fixed and estimated quantities for the MRDS  
679 model incorporating movement and measurement error.

680 Table 2: Estimated abundance of waterfowl surveyed in Arctic Canada.  
681 The first 10 models account for movement and measurement error and are fit-  
682 ted via maximum marginal likelihood (MML), while the last two are Huggins-  
683 Alho models (HA) that ignore movement and measurement error. MML  
684 models are ranked by AIC; we also provide the number of parameters in  
685 each model ( $k$ ), log likelihood (LogL) at the MMLEs, the estimated number  
686 of waterfowl groups  $\hat{G}$ , and the estimated number of waterfowl ( $\hat{N}$ ). MML  
687 models varied by the functional form of movement and measurement error  
688 kernels (Gaussian vs. Laplace), the form of observer dependence (fi: full  
689 independence, pi: point independence; li: limiting independence), as well as  
690 whether the detection function included a distance:moving interaction. HA  
691 models varied by method used to reconcile distance measurements (HA1:  
692 prefer measurement of observer 1; HA2: mean distance). For HA models,  
693 only estimated bird groups are reported owing to software constraints. For  
694 reference, the number of detected bird groups was 964 and the total number  
695 of detected birds was 2666.

696 Table 3: Mean proportion relative bias (RelBias), coefficient of variation  
697 (CV), 95% confidence interval coverage (Cover), and root mean squared er-  
698 ror (RMSE) for the two simulation studies. For the first simulation scenario,

699 “Configuration” gives values for movement ( $\sigma_1$  and  $\sigma_2$ ) and measurement  
 700 error ( $\varphi$ ) parameters, e.g. (0,0,0), respectively; in simulation study 2, it in-  
 701 dicates these parameters as well as expected population size in the surveyed  
 702 area  $N = 200$  or  $N = 1000$ . Three estimation models (Model) were fitted  
 703 to each data set in simulation study 1: the maximum marginal likelihood  
 704 (MML) model accounting for movement and measurement error, and two  
 705 Huggins-Alho models which do not account for movement, measurement er-  
 706 ror, or observer dependence (HA1 and HA2; described in the text). For  
 707 simulation scenario two, we fitted an additional MML model that accounts  
 708 for observer dependence (MMLd).

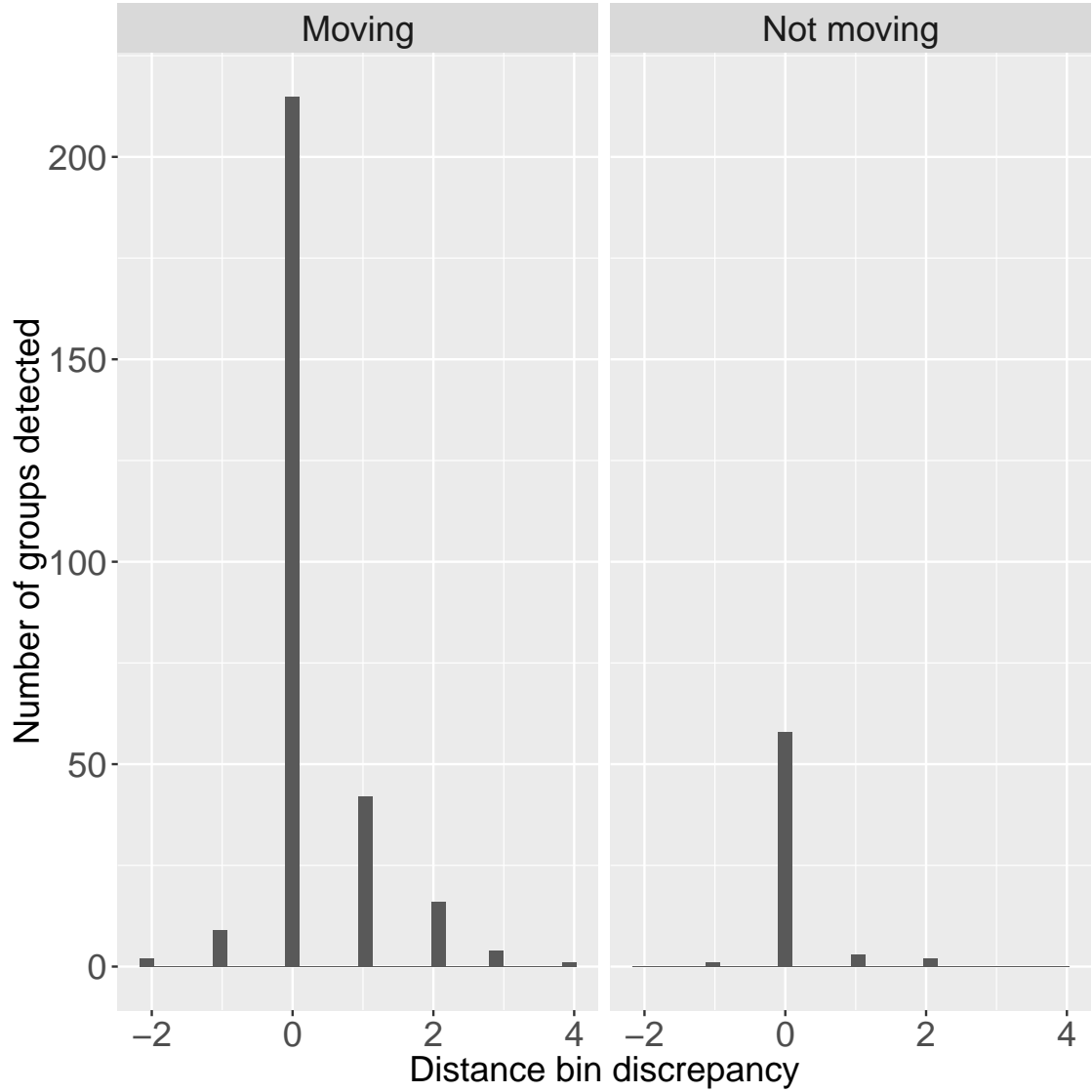


Figure 1: Distribution of observed distance bin discrepancies ( $d_{o=2} - d_{o=1}$ ) for bird groups detected by both front ( $o = 1$ ) and rear ( $o = 2$ ) observers in helicopter surveys. Negative values imply movement (or measurement error) towards the helicopter, while positive values imply movement away from the helicopter. For moving birds, the distance bin observed by the rear observer tended to be further away than the bin observed by the front observer. Since the second observer always detected birds later than the front observer, this suggests responsive movement away from the aircraft.

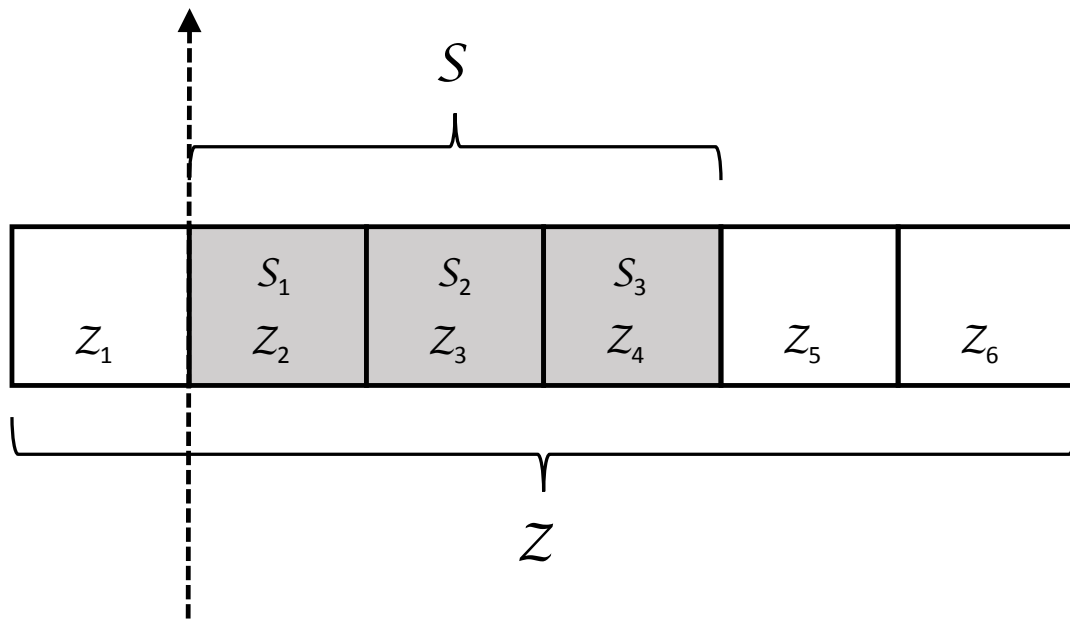


Figure 2: A depiction of observed ( $\mathcal{S}$ ) and latent ( $\mathcal{Z}$ ) distance bins that could potentially be used in analysis of a hypothetical mark-recapture distance sampling (MRDS) survey. In this example, only animals encountered in one of the three shaded distance bins to the right of the transect line (dashed line) are recorded; however, the state space is augmented with an additional three bins to account for possible animal movement and measurement error. In practice, the number of augmented distance bins that are needed will be a function of the magnitude of the movement and measurement error processes.

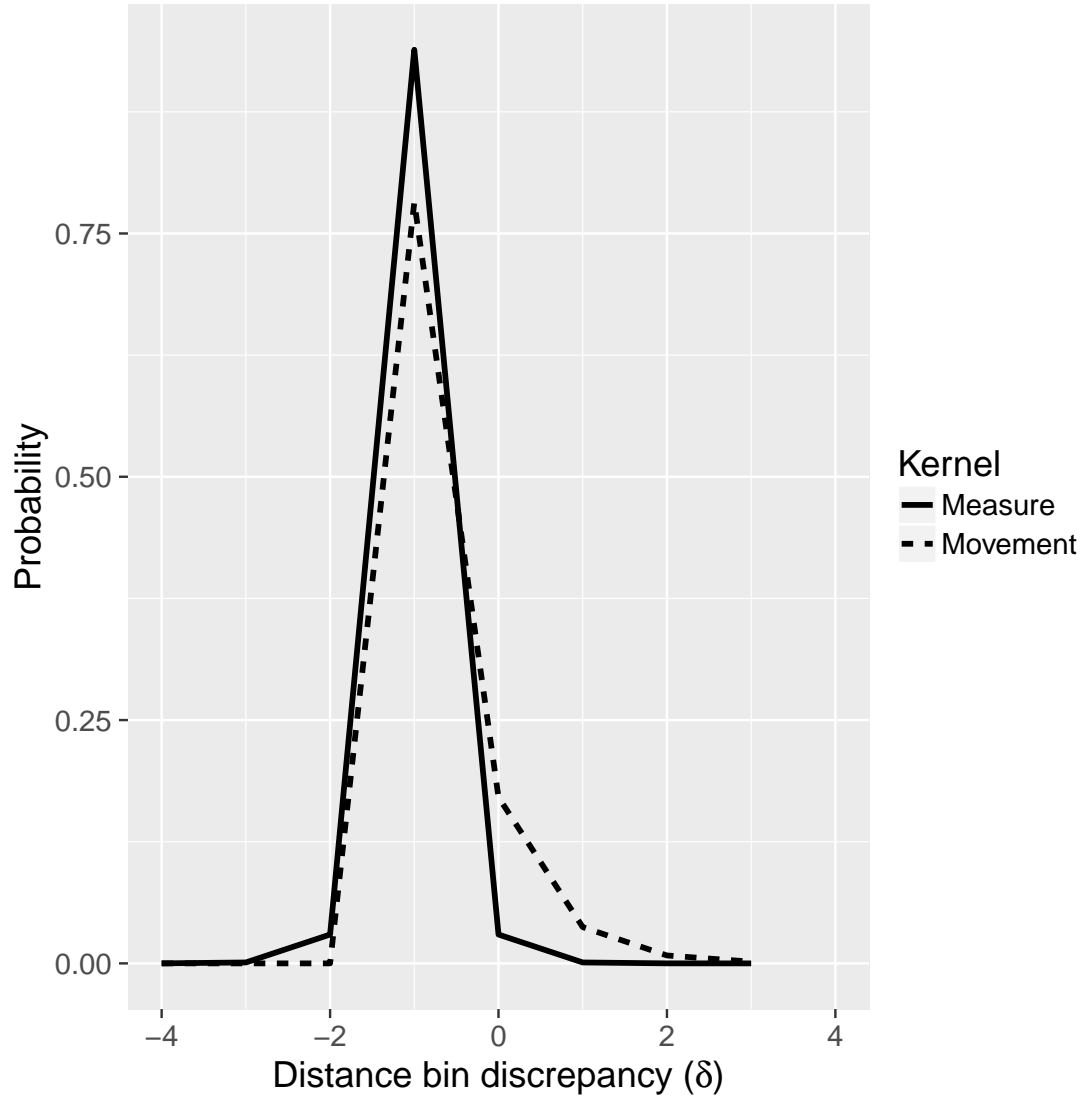


Figure 3: Estimated movement and measurement error kernels for waterfowl MRDS data from the highest ranked MML model. Measurement error used a (discretized) symmetric Laplace kernel, while movement had an asymmetric Laplace kernel.

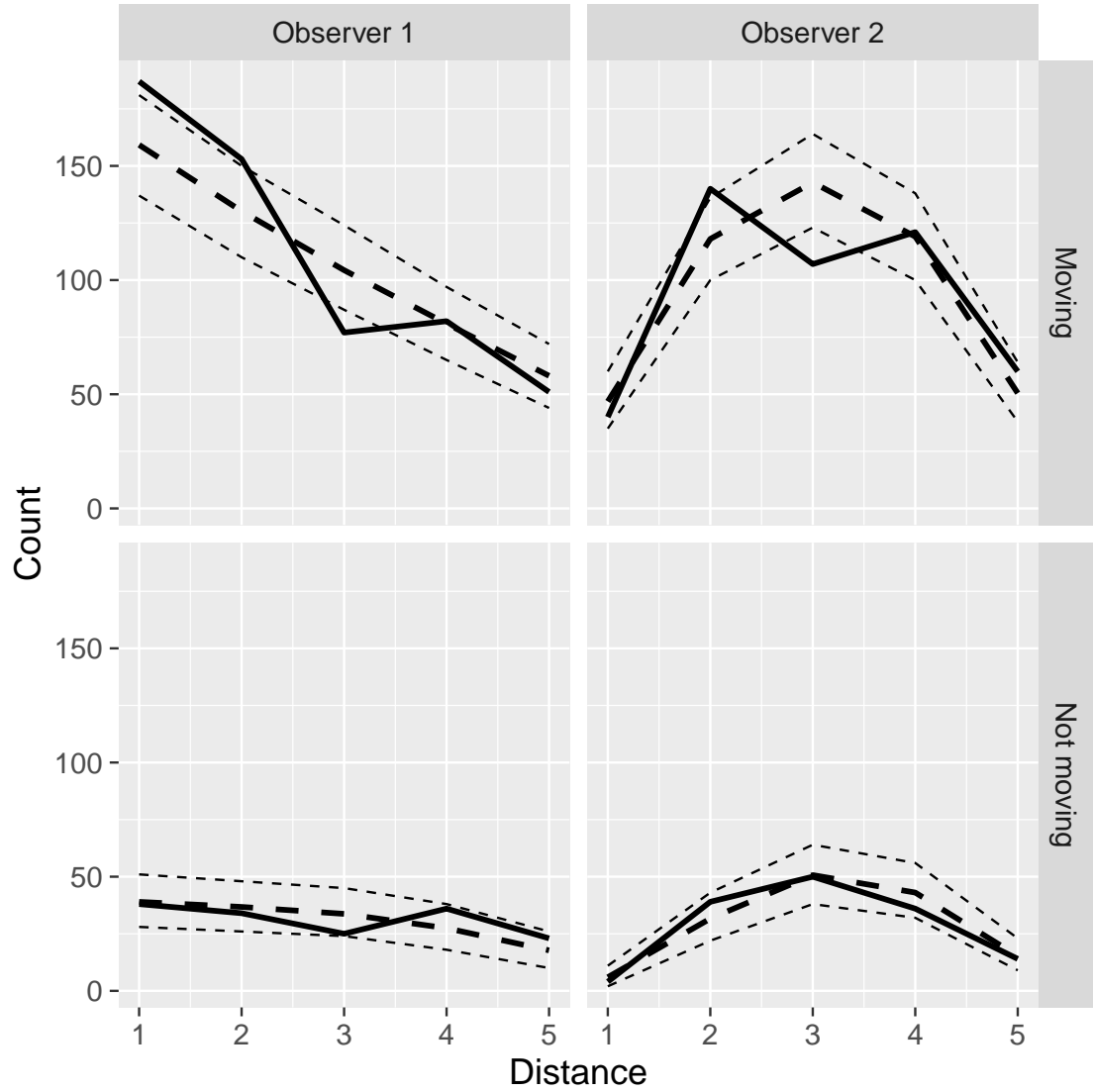


Figure 4: A plot of the number of observed and predicted waterfowl groups by observer and movement status. Observed data are given by the thick solid line, while the thick dashed line represents mean predictions and the thin, dashed lines represent 2.5th and 97.5th quantiles of model-based simulations (including variance due to uncertainty of MML estimates).



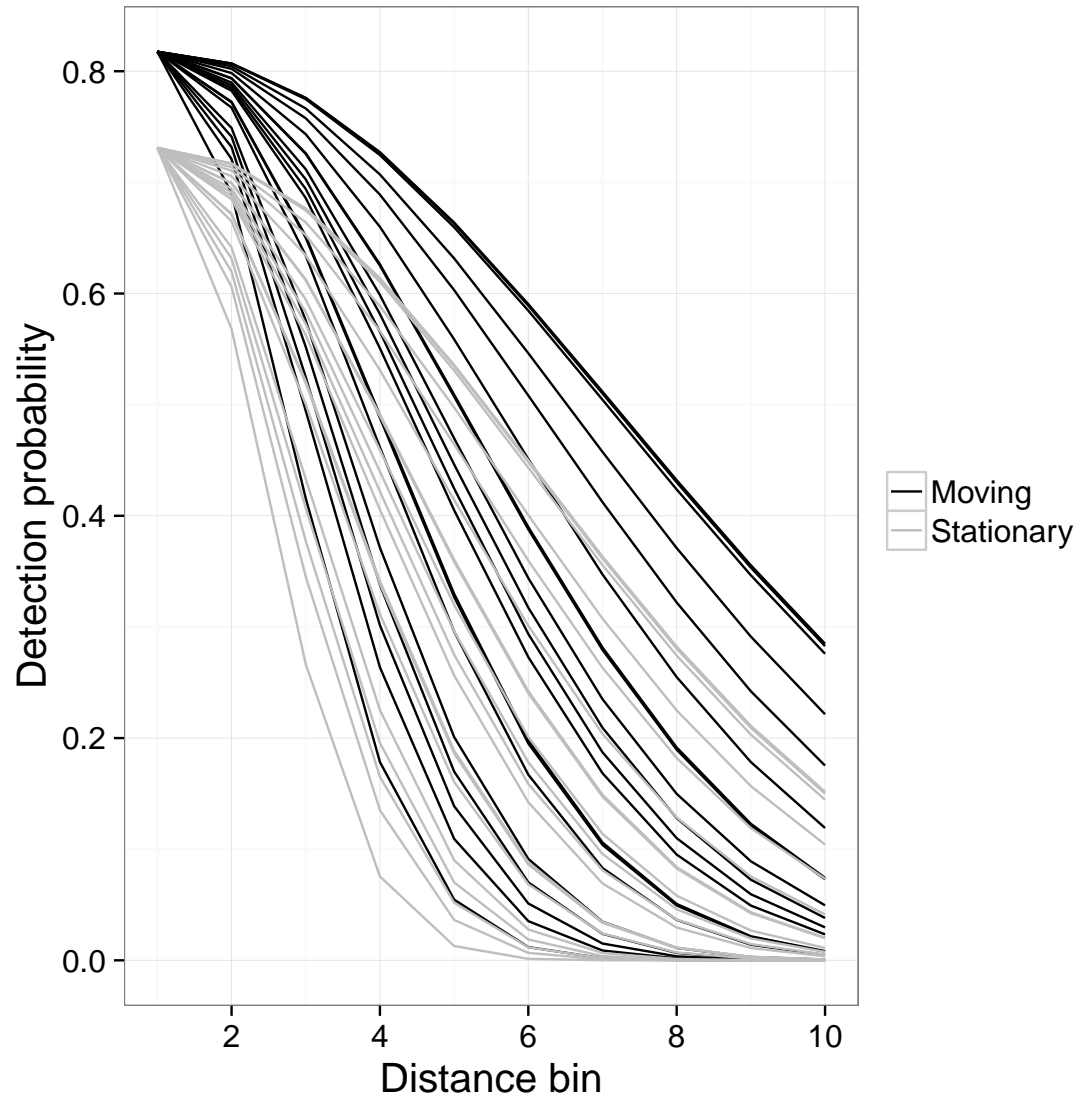


Figure 5: Detection probability for a random sample of 20 individuals from Simulation Study 2, where heterogeneity is incorporated via a random effect on the log of the standard deviation associated with a half-normal detection model. Detection probabilities are presented for cases where animals are moving (black lines) or not moving (gray lines)

Table 1:

Quantity	Definition
<b>A. Fixed quantities</b>	
$n$	Number of animals detected by at least one observer
$y_{io}$	Binary indicator for whether animal group $i$ was detected by observer $o$
$d_{io}$	Distance bin recorded by observer $o$ for animal group $i$ (if recorded)
$m_i$	A binary indicator for whether animal group $i$ was moving when observed (a single determination is made)
$\mathbf{x}_i$	A vector of covariates used to explain variation in detection probability for group $i$
$g_i$	Number of animals in group $i$ (a single determination is made)
$\mathcal{S}$	The set of distance bins for which data are recorded, $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{S}_1, \mathcal{S}_2, \dots, \mathcal{S}_{n_{\mathcal{S}}}$
$\mathcal{Z}$	The set of latent distance bins used for modeling true animal locations, $\mathcal{Z} = \mathcal{Z}_1, \mathcal{Z}_2, \dots, \mathcal{Z}_{n_{\mathcal{Z}}}$
$\pi_j$	Proportion of $\mathcal{Z}$ covered by latent distance bin $j$
<b>B. Parameters and functions of parameters</b>	
$z_{io}$	True (latent) distance bin of group $i$ when encountered by observer $o$
$\xi_{io}$	An indicator for whether or not observer $3 - o$ detected group $i$
$\delta_{io}$	Perpendicular distance from the transect line to the midpoint of bin $z_{io}$
$\beta$	A vector of parameters governing logit-linear variation in detection probability
$\phi$	Parameters governing animal movement
$\varphi$	Parameters governing distance measurement error
$\theta$	The set of detection, movement, and measurement error parameters ( $\theta = \{\beta, \phi, \varphi\}$ )
$p_{io}(z_{io})$	Probability that observer $o$ detects group $i$ given that the group is truly in distance bin $z_{io}$
$p_i^*(z_{i1}, z_{i2})$	Probability that at least one observer detects group $i$ given the group is in distance bin $z_{i1}$ at time 1 and $z_{i2}$ at time 2
$\psi(z_{i1}, z_{i2})$	Probability that an animal that is in latent distance bin $z_{i1}$ when it passes observer 1 will be in latent distance bin $z_{i2}$ when it passes observer 2
$\omega(z, d)$	Probability that an animal group in distance bin $z$ is recorded as being in distance bin $d$
$\omega(z, \mathcal{S})$	Probability that an animal group in distance bin $z$ will have a recorded distance bin falling within $\mathcal{S}$
$\mathbf{X}$	A design matrix used to impart logit-linear structure on detection probabilities; note this will often include latent distance values, $\mathbf{z}_i$ .
$N$	True abundance of animals in the surveyed area

Table 2:

Model	$\Delta\text{AIC}$	$k$	LogL	$\hat{G}(\hat{\text{SE}})$	$\hat{N}(\hat{\text{SE}})$
MML.Laplace.pi.move	0.0	14	-2725.4	1519 (142)	3808 (302)
MML.Laplace.li	1.2	13	-2727.0	1122 (106)	2993 (222)
MML.Laplace.pi	3.2	12	-2729.0	1399 (99)	3562 (209)
MML.Laplace.fi	6.1	11	-2731.5	1244 (33)	3240 (73)
MML.Laplace.fi.move	6.7	13	-2729.8	1255 (35)	3261 (77)
MML.Gaussian.pi.move	55.5	14	-2753.2	1516 (149)	3800 (315)
MML.Gaussian.li	56.5	13	-2754.7	1130 (118)	3009 (247)
MML.Gaussian.pi	58.3	12	-2756.6	1394 (101)	3552 (212)
MML.Gaussian.fi	62.9	11	-2760.0	1248 (35)	3248 (80)
MML.Gaussian.fi.move	63.6	13	-2758.2	1259 (35)	3269 (79)
MML.Gaussian.li.move <sup>†</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
MML.Laplace.li.move <sup>†</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
HA1	NA	10	NA	1239 (47)	NA
HA2	NA	10	NA	1278 (56)	NA

<sup>†</sup> Did not converge

Table 3:

Configuration	Model	RelBias	CV	Cover	RMSE
<b>A. Simulation study 1</b>					
(0,0,0)	MML	0.00	0.03	0.91	214
(0,0,0)	HA1	0.01	0.04	0.95	532
(0,0,0)	HA2	0.01	0.04	0.95	529
(0.7,0.7,0)	MML	0.01	0.03	0.87	268
(0.7,0.7,0)	HA1	0.04	0.05	0.84	1144
(0.7,0.7,0)	HA2	0.06	0.05	0.80	1763
(0.5,1.5,0)	MML	-0.02	0.03	0.89	371
(0.5,1.5,0)	HA1	0.08	0.07	0.77	3086
(0.5,1.5,0)	HA2	0.07	0.07	0.84	2883
(0,0,0.5)	MML	0.00	0.03	0.91	245
(0,0,0.5)	HA1	0.01	0.05	0.95	490
(0,0,0.5)	HA2	0.03	0.05	0.93	740
(0.7,0.7,0.5)	MML	0.01	0.03	0.87	306
(0.7,0.7,0.5)	HA1	0.04	0.05	0.86	1237
(0.7,0.7,0.5)	HA2	0.07	0.06	0.75	2676
(0.5,1.5,0.5)	MML	-0.03	0.03	0.85	471
(0.5,1.5,0.5)	HA1	0.07	0.07	0.82	3045
(0.5,1.5,0.5)	HA2	0.10	0.08	0.77	4387
<b>B. Simulation study 2</b>					
(0,0,0), $N = 200$	MMLd	0.03	0.12	0.94	435
(0,0,0), $N = 200$	MML	-0.04	0.05	0.89	194
(0,0,0), $N = 200$	HA1	-0.06	0.06	0.83	312
(0,0,0), $N = 200$	HA2	-0.06	0.06	0.83	312
(0,1.5,0.5), $N = 200$	MMLd	-0.01	0.15	0.96	692
(0,1.5,0.5), $N = 200$	MML	-0.08	0.06	0.74	440
(0,1.5,0.5), $N = 200$	HA1	0.04	0.13	0.95	2581
(0,1.5,0.5), $N = 200$	HA2	0.00	0.12	0.92	921
(0,0,0), $N = 1000$	MMLd	0.03	0.05	0.91	2574
(0,0,0), $N = 1000$	MML	-0.05	0.02	0.33	3519
(0,0,0), $N = 1000$	HA1	-0.08	0.02	0.22	6315
(0,0,0), $N = 1000$	HA2	-0.08	0.02	0.22	6312
(0,1.5,0.5), $N = 1000$	MMLd	-0.03	0.05	0.94	3092
(0,1.5,0.5), $N = 1000$	MML	-0.09	0.02	0.06	8817
(0,1.5,0.5), $N = 1000$	HA1	-0.01	0.05	0.92	2607
(0,1.5,0.5), $N = 1000$	HA2	-0.03	0.04	0.84	3080