

Spatial and temporal modelling

An underwater photograph showing three needlefish swimming in clear, turquoise water. The fish are elongated with long, thin snouts and are swimming from left to right. The background shows the water surface with light reflections and some darker rocks or structures at the bottom.

Robert Lennox
Ocean Tracking Network/
Dalhousie University

Disclaimer

- Not a statistician
- But... ecology requires good statistical practice
- Very little formal training in statistics and math
- Good collaboration with many statisticians



From the beginning



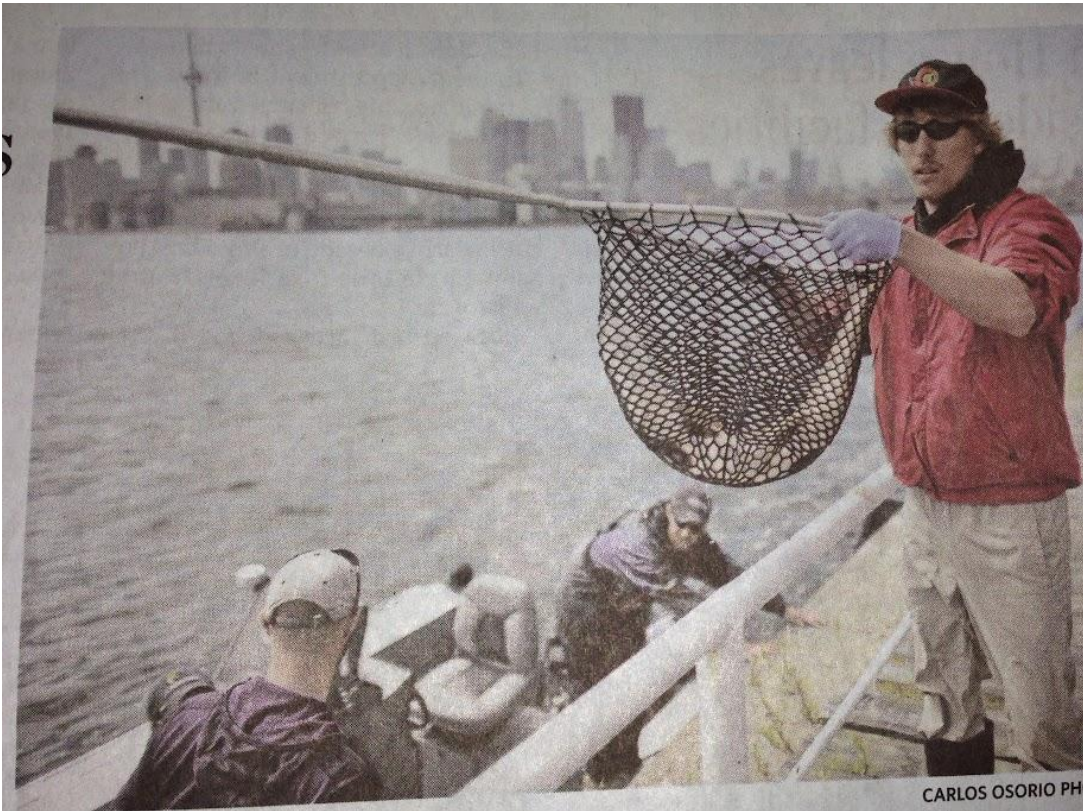
CARLOS OSORIO PH

Rob Lennox, a Carleton University student, handles a fish caught in the Toronto Harbour. Conservationists are using a high-tech method to get a picture of fish habitats in the city's harbour.



... laughed, "Only the government can provide a snapshot of the river's health using acoustic tagging."

From the beginning



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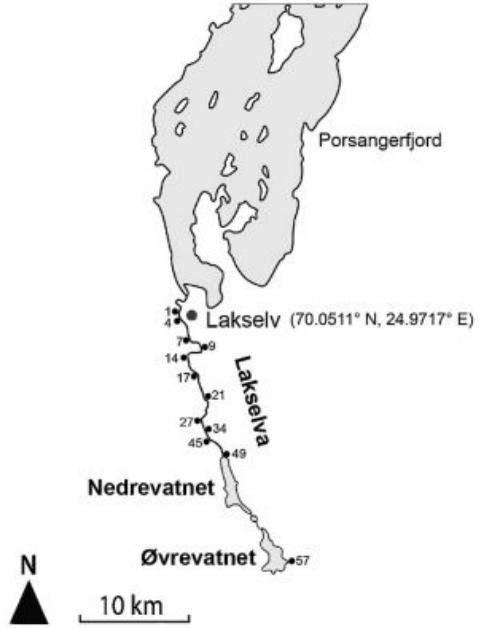
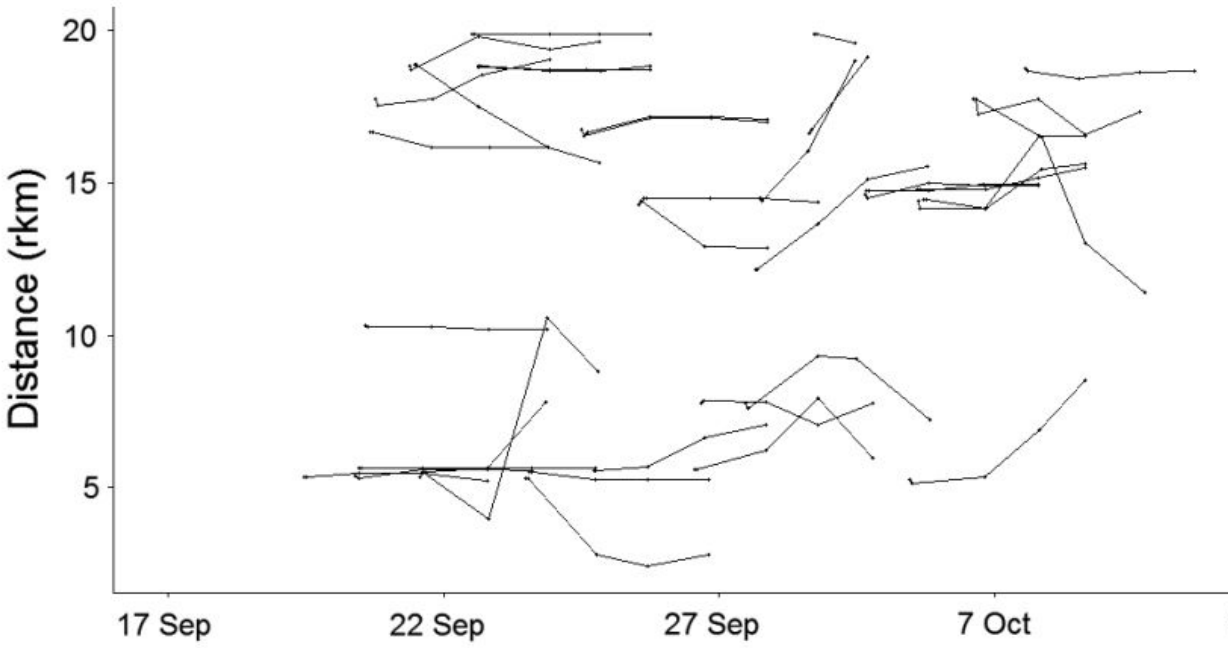
... laughed, "Only the government can provide a snapshot of the fish population using acoustic tagging v



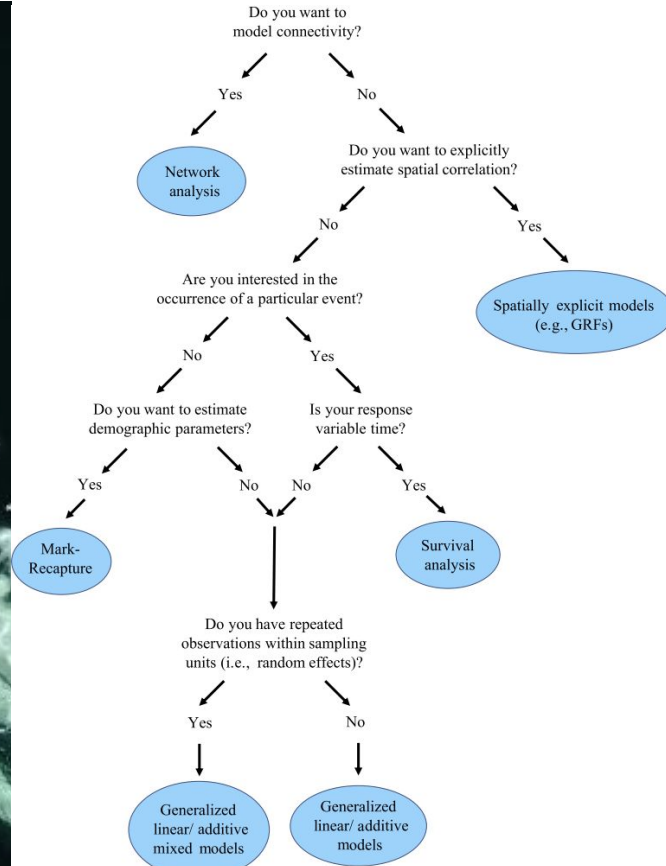
Movement in one dimension - relatively easy!



Movement in one dimension - relatively easy!



Need tools that can help us to work in at least two dimensions



REVIEW

Current and emerging statistical techniques for aquatic telemetry data: A guide to analysing spatially discrete animal detections

Kim Whoriskey¹ | Eduardo G. Martins² | Marie Auger-Méthé^{3,4} | Lee F. G. Gutowsky^{5,6} | Robert J. Lennox^{5,7} | Steven J. Cooke⁵ | Michael Power⁸ | Joanna Mills Flemming¹

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Funding information

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada; Canada Research Chairs; Ocean Tracking Network; BC Hydro; Killam Trusts; Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute (CANSSI)

Handling Editor: Luca Börger

Abstract

1. Telemetry, or the remote monitoring of animals with electronic transmitters and receivers, has vastly enhanced our ability to study aquatic animals. Radio telemetry, acoustic telemetry and passive integrated transponders are three common technologies that generate detection data – time-stamped, tag-specific records that are logged by receivers.

2. We review current statistical methods and comment on potential future directions for analysing detection data derived from fixed telemetry receiver arrays.

3. To illustrate how different methods may be used to achieve diverse study objectives, we provide a case study dataset collected by an array of 42 acoustic telemetry receivers on 187 bull trout in the Kinbasket Reservoir of British Columbia. To close, we present a decision tree for guiding the selection of a method based on study objectives and sampling design.

4. This paper provides both experienced and novice telemetry researchers with the knowledge and tools to facilitate more comprehensive analysis of detection data and, in so doing, ask a wide variety of ecological questions that will enhance our understanding of aquatic organisms.

KEYWORDS

acoustic telemetry, detection data, movement ecology, Ocean Tracking Network, PIT tag, radio telemetry, statistical methods

1 | INTRODUCTION

Aquatic animals live in habitats that create inherent challenges for those attempting to study their ecology, behaviour and physiology.

Telemetry enables the remote monitoring of free-living animals, whereby a signal emanating from a device (i.e., transmitter or tag) carried by an animal transfers information to a receiver. The advent of telemetry tools has provided researchers with effective means of

We can even work in three dimensions, or four!

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REVIEW

Methods in Ecology and Evolution

Positioning aquatic animals with acoustic transmitters

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¹NORCE Norwegian Research Centre, Laboratory for Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries, Bergen, Norway; ²Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA), Trondheim, Norway; ³Ocean Tracking Network, Department of Biology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada; ⁴Section for Freshwater Fisheries and Ecology, Technical University of Denmark, Silkeborg, Denmark; ⁵Instituto Mediterraneo de Estudios Avanzados (IMEDEA, CSIC-UIB), Esporles, Spain; ⁶Department of Fish Biology, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries, Berlin, Germany; ⁷Division of Integrative Fisheries Management, Faculty of Life Sciences, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany; ⁸Department of Wildlife, Fish, and Environmental Studies, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Umeå, Sweden; ⁹Department of Zoology, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden; ¹⁰School of Biological Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne, Victorian, Australia; ¹¹Department of Biology and Institute of Environmental and Interdisciplinary Science, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; ¹²Department of Biological Sciences, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway; ¹³Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Fram Centre, Tromsø, Norway; ¹⁴School of Fisheries Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, USA; ¹⁵U.S. Geological Survey, Great Lakes Science Center, Hammond Bay Biological Station, Millersburg, Michigan, USA; ¹⁶Ecology and Conservation, Faculty of Nature and Engineering, Hochschule Bremen, Bremen, Germany; ¹⁷Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Program, School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatic Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA; ¹⁸Marine Evolutionary Ecology, GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, Kiel, Germany; ¹⁹Research Institute for Nature and Forest, Brussels, Belgium; ²⁰School of Zoology, George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel; ²¹Biology Centre of Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Hydrobiology, České Budějovice, Czech Republic; ²²Flanders Marine Institute, Ostende, Belgium; ²³Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas, CSIC, Vigo, Spain and ²⁴NIRAE, Aix Marseille Université, Pôle RéseaD ECLA, RECOVER, Aix-en-Provence Cedex 5, France

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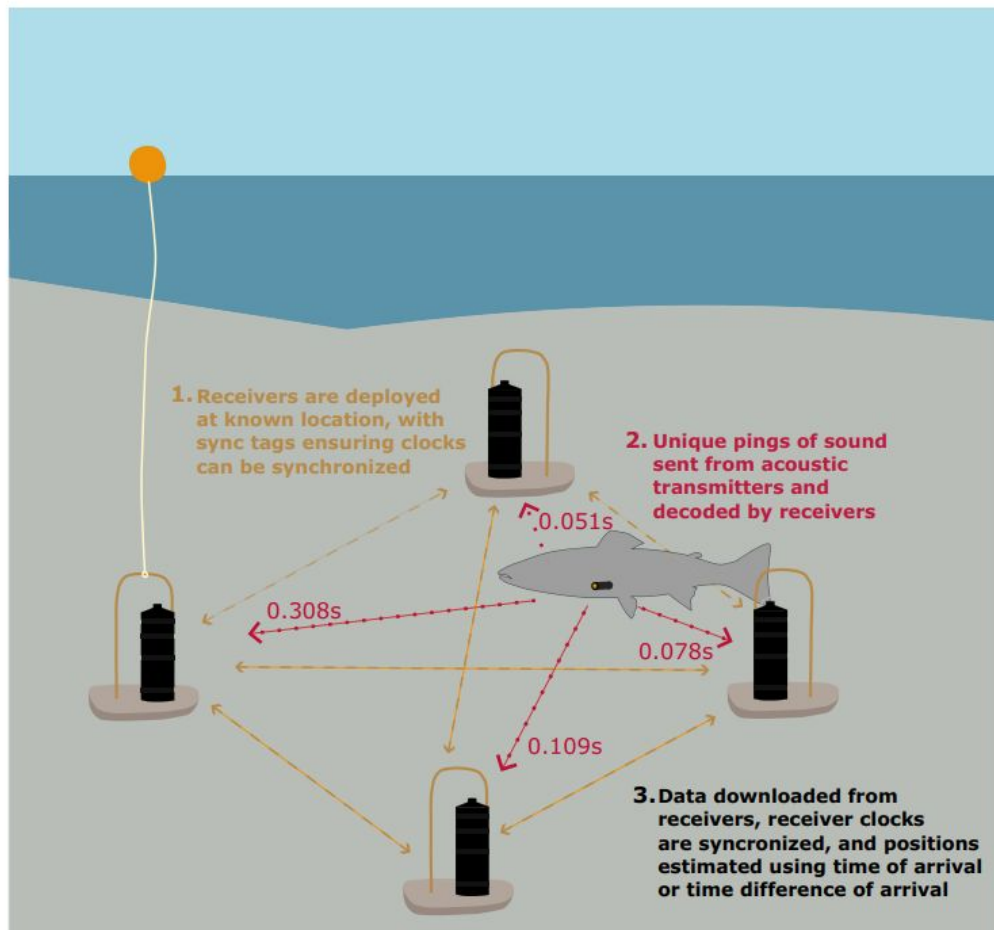
Funding information

ALTER-NET, The European Aquatic Animal Tracking Network COST Action, Grant/Award Number: CA18102; The Danish Rod and Net Licence Funds; EU Horizon 2020 Project STRAITS, Grant/Award Number: 101094649; Norwegian Research Council, Grant/Award Number: LOST 323840 and LAKES 320226; Research Foundation Flanders (FWO); European Maritime Fisheries Fund, Grant/Award Number: B730117000069 and MV4.18-1M-004; Poul Due Jensen Fond

Handling Editor: Gavin Simpson

Abstract

1. Geolocating aquatic animals with acoustic tags has been ongoing for decades, relying on the detection of acoustic signals at multiple receivers with known positions to calculate a 2D or 3D position, and ultimately recreate the path of an aquatic animal from detections at fixed stations.
2. This method of underwater geolocation is evolving with new software and hardware options available to help investigators design studies and calculate positions using solvers based predominantly on time-difference-of-arrival and time-of-arrival.
3. We provide an overview of the considerations necessary to implement positioning in aquatic acoustic telemetry studies, including how to design arrays of receivers, test performance, synchronize receiver clocks and calculate positions from the detection data. We additionally present some common positioning algorithms.



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Ecological modelling is overwhelming

- Linear models
- Mixed models
- Hierarchical models
- Additive models
- Multiple regression
- Survival analysis/ time-to-event
- Multivariable regression
- Machine learning
- Non-linear effects
- Correlation
- Causative modelling
- Species distribution models
- Step selection models
- Resource selection models
- Regression tree analysis
- Predictive modelling
- Bayesian zero inflated hierarchical probabilistic inference

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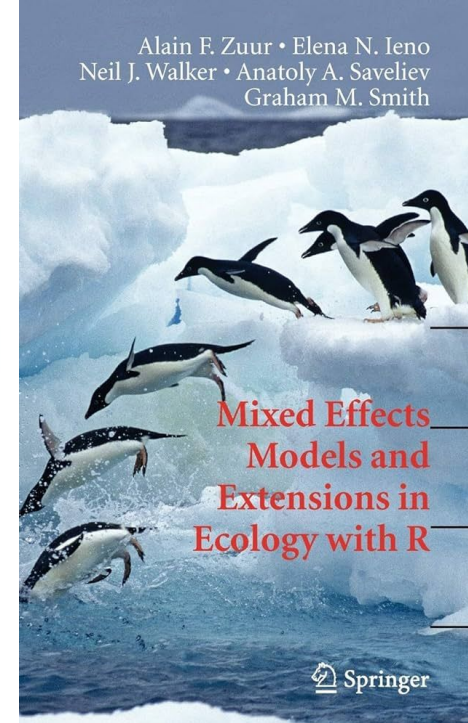
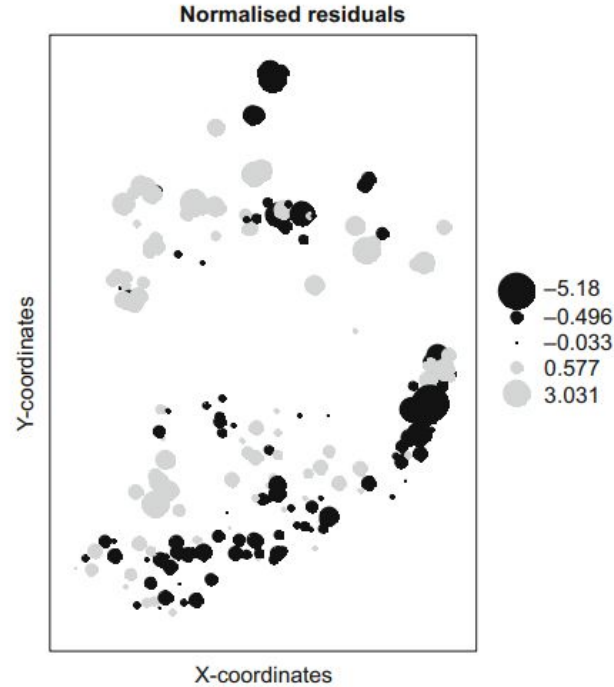
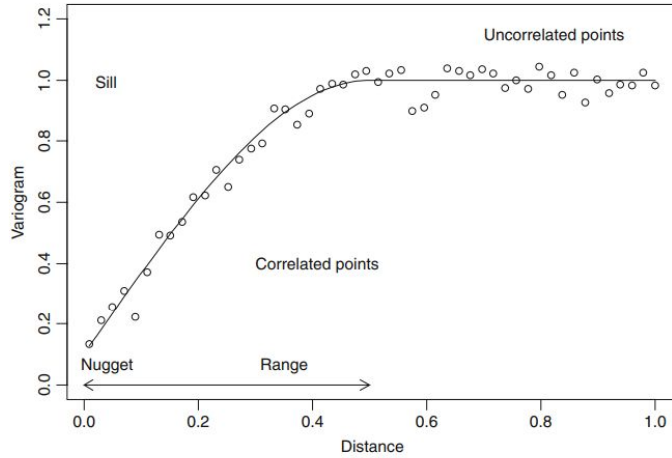
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@stats_dril

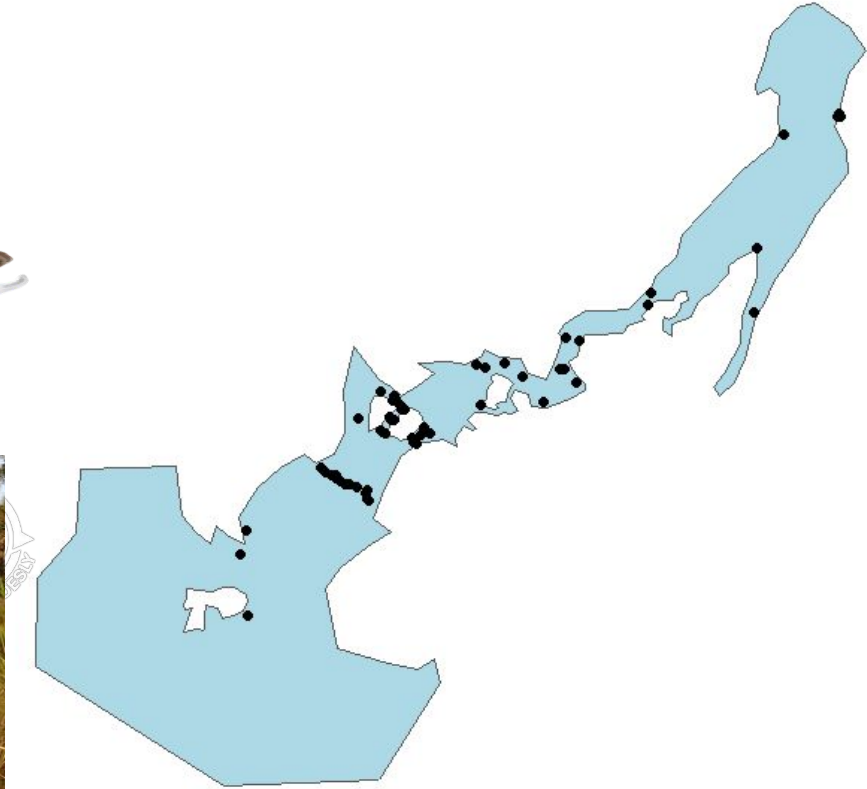
roses are red
class is in session
most machine learning
is just fancy regression

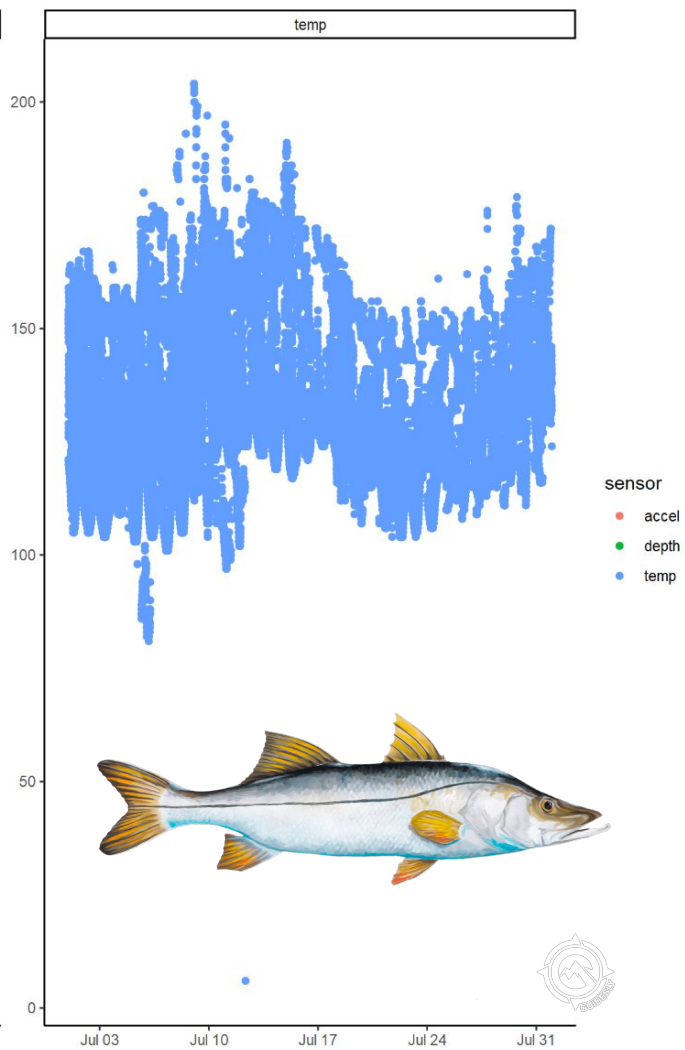
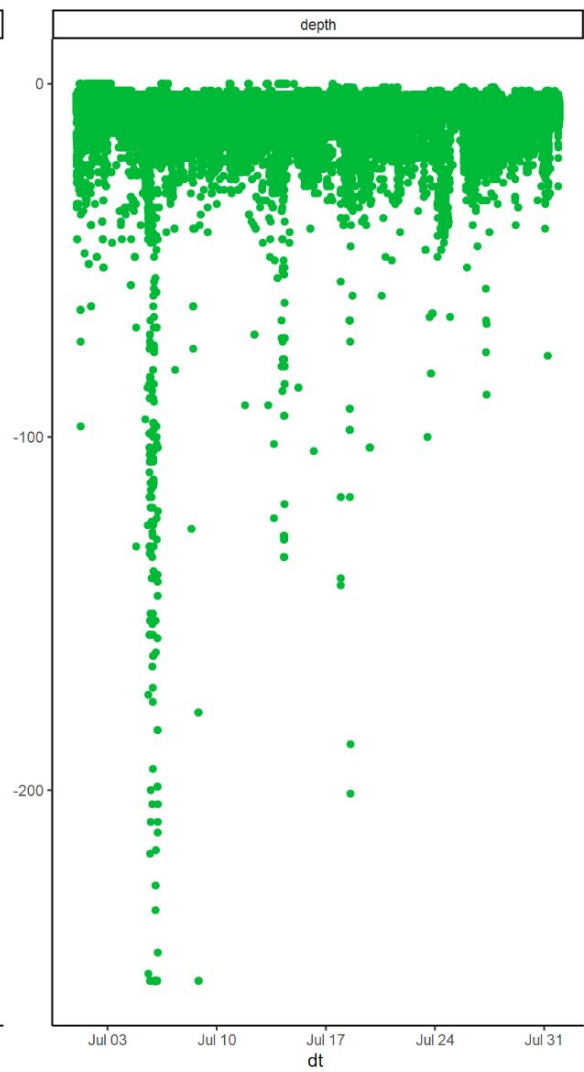
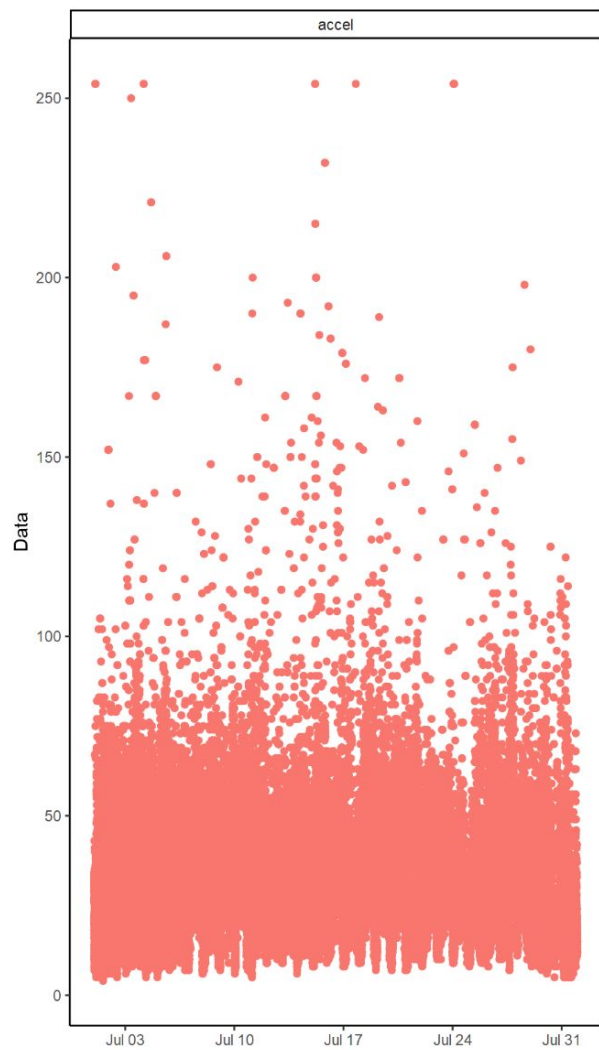
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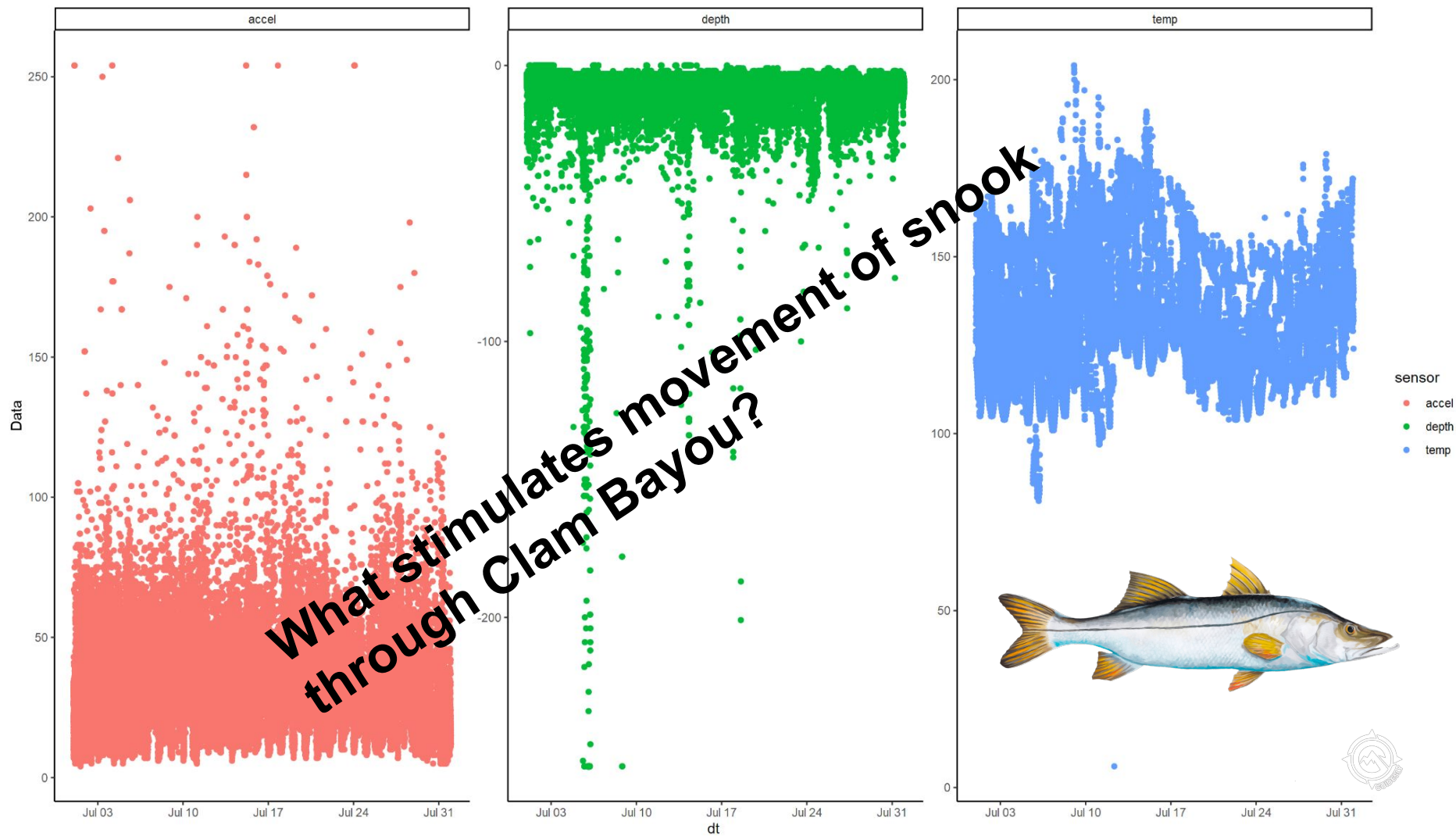
Ecological modelling is spatial



Snook movements in Clam Bayou on Sanibel Island*







How I think about ecological modelling

- Partitioning variance
- What affects a response?
- Lots of individual variation in movement

$Y \sim \text{treatment} + 1|ID + \text{time} + \text{space}$



Treatment



Individual



Space and Time

How I think about ecological modelling

- Partitioning variance
- What affects a response?
- Lots of individual variation in movement

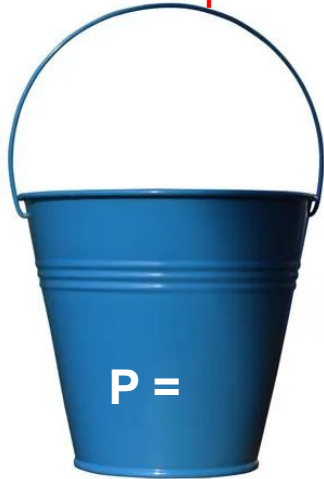
$Y \sim \text{treatment} + 1|ID + \text{time} + \text{space}$



Treatment



Individual



Space and Time

How I think about ecological modelling

- Partitioning variance
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- Lots of individual variation in movement

$Y \sim \text{treatment} + 1|ID + \text{time} + \text{space}$



Treatment

Individual

Space and Time

Spatiotemporal Modelling

Tobler's First Law of Geography

Everything is related to everything else,
but closer things are more related to
each other

- This implies that animal responses must depend on location
- Important to include space as a covariate in models with acoustic telemetry



How can we incorporate space and time in hypothesis testing?

PeerJ

Hierarchical generalized additive models in ecology: an introduction with mgcv

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, we discuss an extension to two popular approaches to modeling complex structures in ecological data: the generalized additive model (GAM) and the hierarchical model (HGLM). The hierarchical GAM (HGAM), allows modeling of nonlinear functional relationships between covariates and outcomes where the shape of the function itself varies between different grouping levels. We describe the theoretical connection between HGAMs, HGLMs, and GAMs, explain how to model different assumptions about the degree of intergroup variability in functional response, and show how HGAMs can be readily fitted using existing GAM software, the `mgcv` package in R. We also discuss computational and statistical issues with fitting these models, and demonstrate how to fit HGAMs on example data. All code and data used to generate this paper are available at: github.com/eric-pedersen/mixed-effect-gams.

Subjects: Ecology, Statistics, Data Science, Spatial and Geographic Information Science

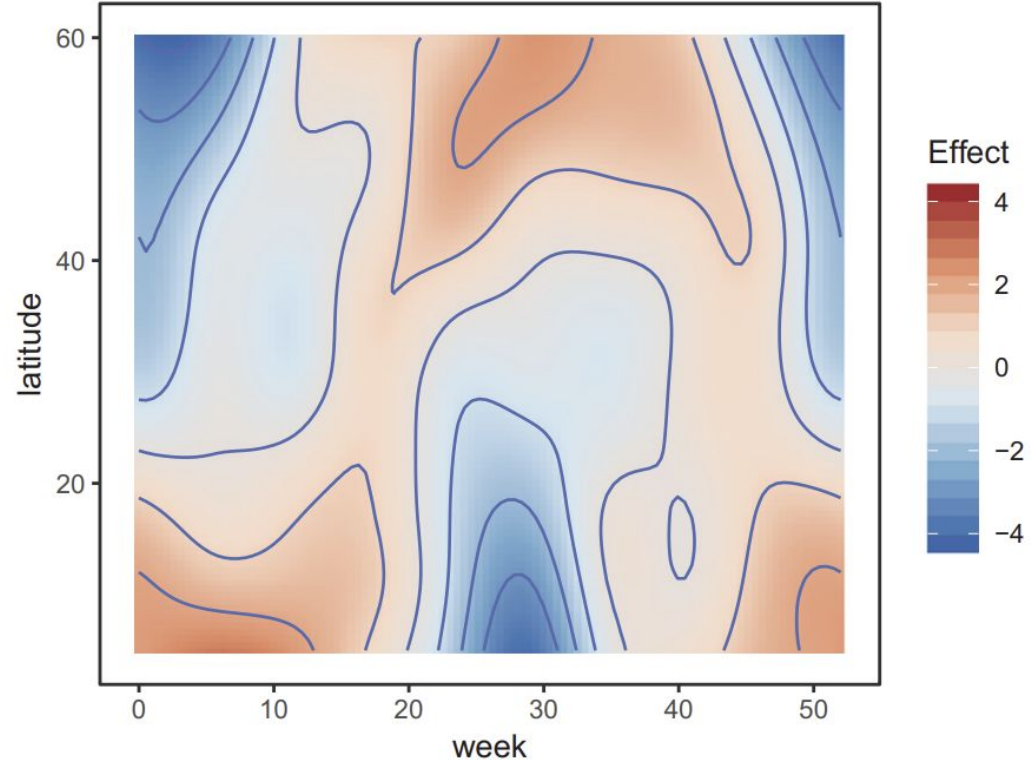
Keywords: Generalized additive models, Hierarchical models, Time series, Functional regression, Smoothing, Regression, Community ecology, Tutorial, Nonlinear estimation

INTRODUCTION

Two of the most popular and powerful modeling techniques currently in use by ecologists are generalized additive models (GAMs; [Wood, 2017a](#)) for modeling flexible regression functions, and generalized linear mixed models ("hierarchical generalized linear models" (HGLMs) or simply "hierarchical models"; [Bolker et al., 2009](#); [Gelman et al., 2013](#)) for modeling between-group variability in regression relationships.

At first glance, GAMs and HGLMs are very different tools used to solve different problems. GAMs are used to estimate smooth functional relationships between predictor variables and the response. HGLMs, on the other hand, are used to estimate linear relationships between predictor variables and response (although nonlinear relationships can also be modeled through quadratic terms or other transformations of the predictor variables), but impose a structure where predictors are organized into groups (often

te(week,latitude)



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Andrew Gray

Additional Information and

Declarations can be found on

page 99

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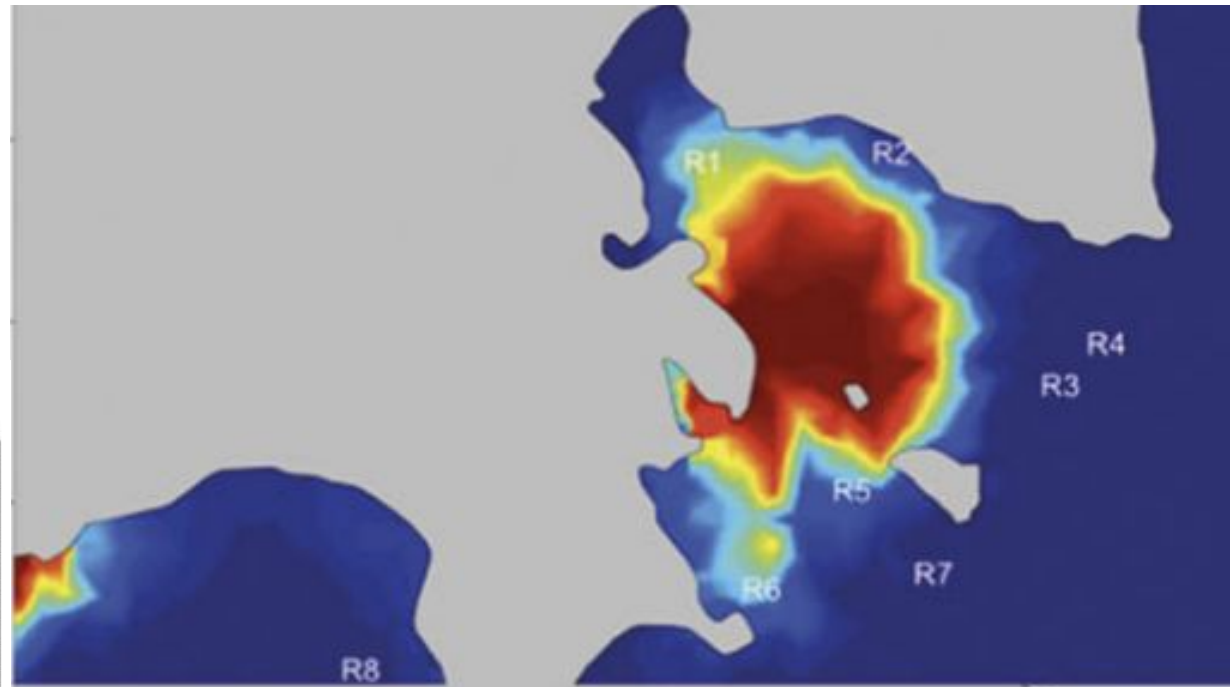
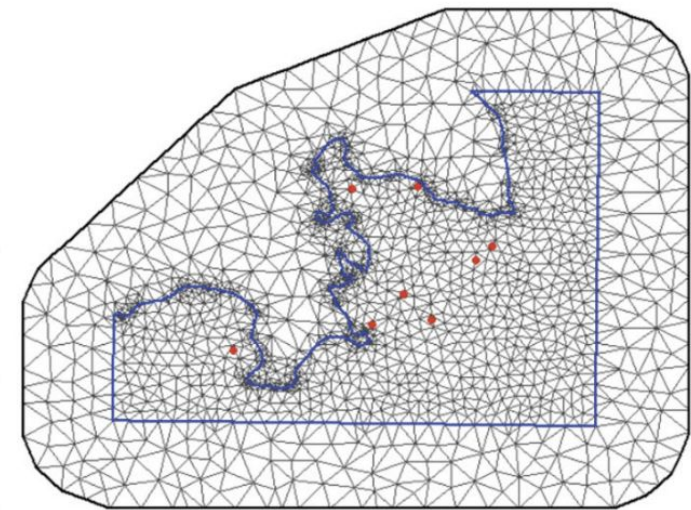
2019 Pedersen et al.

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OPEN ACCESS

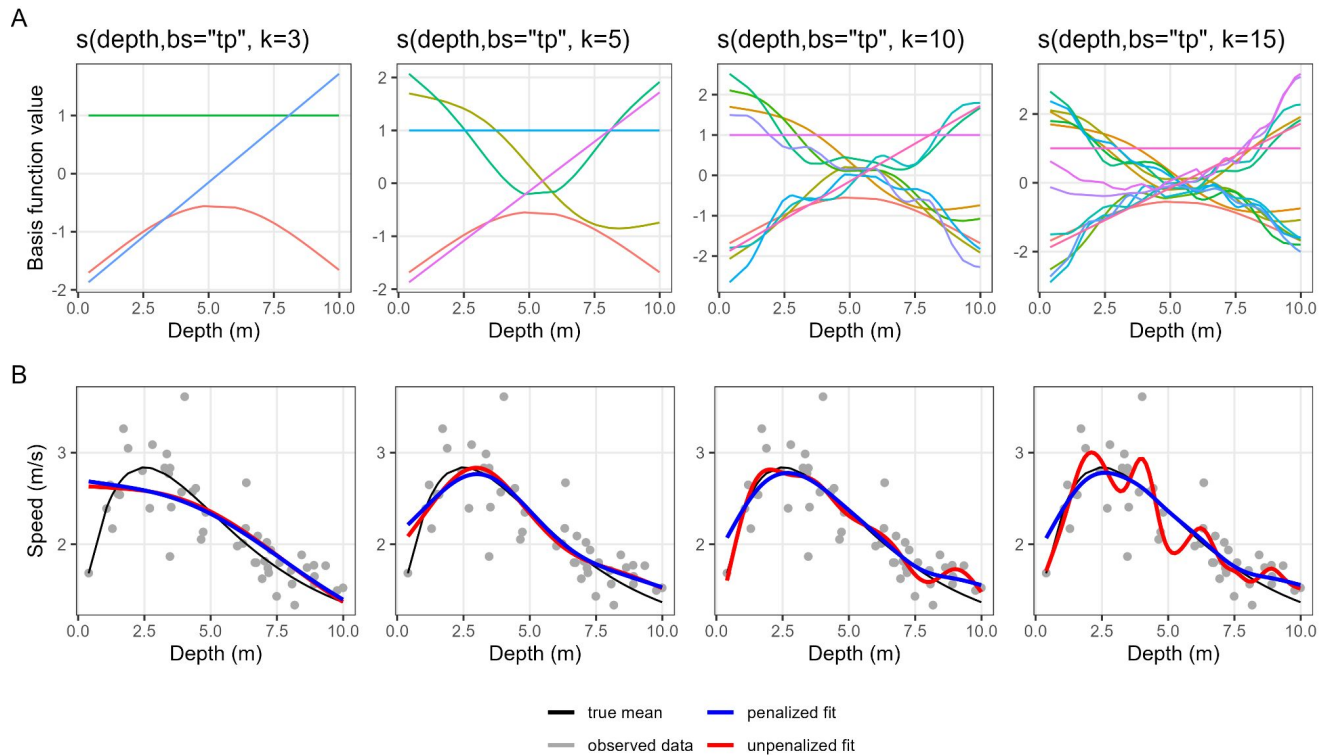
Tessellation-based spatial smoothing with SPDE (INLA)



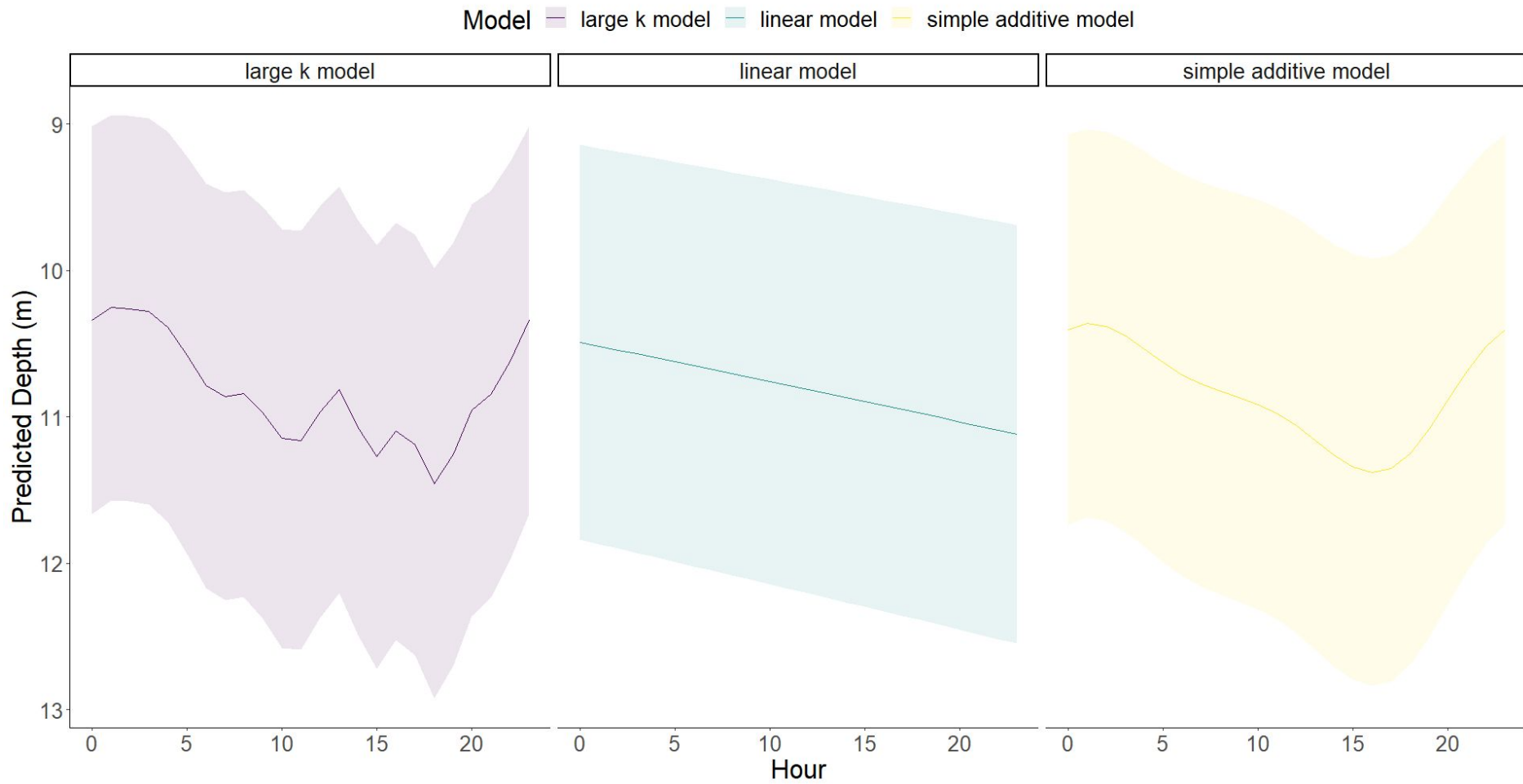
Lucas Griffin and Friends 2019

The basis function - the math behind the magic

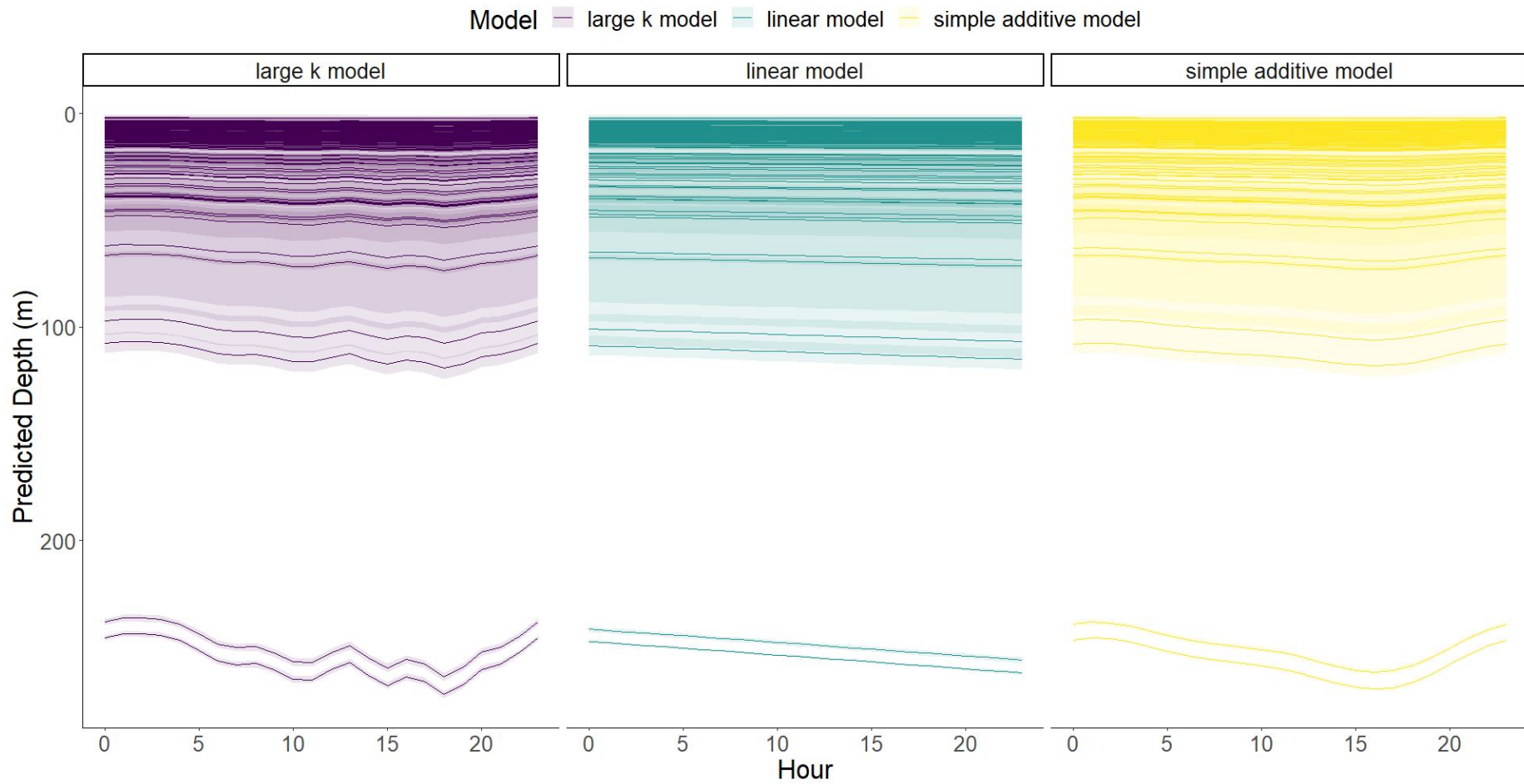
- GAMs use a linear combination of basis functions
- Basis functions are penalised to reduce overfitting



Making some choices

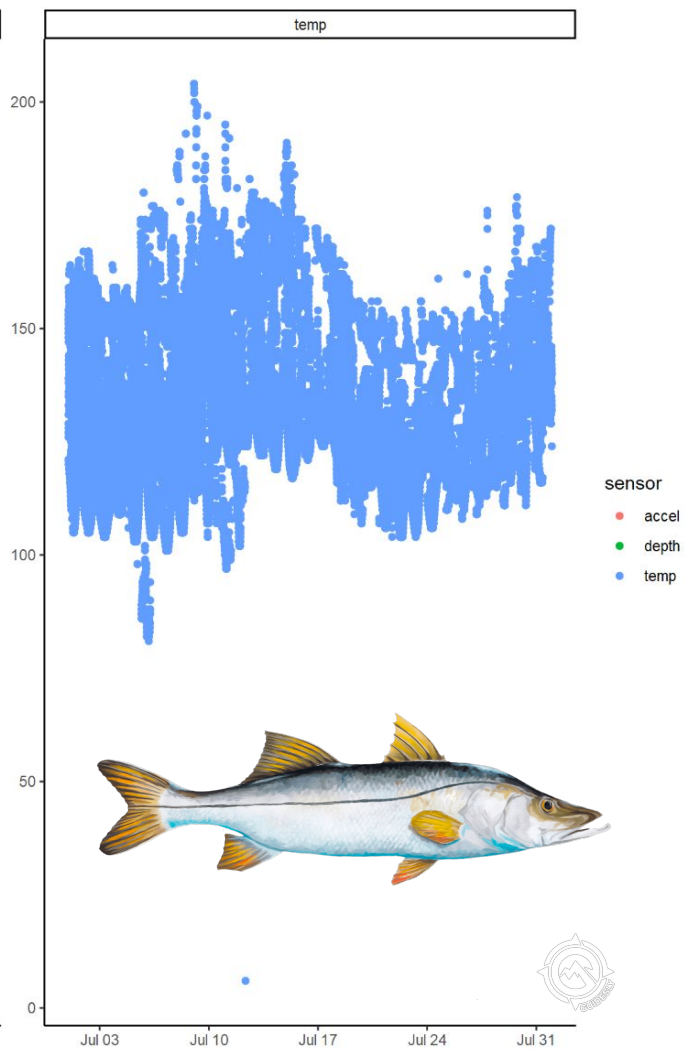
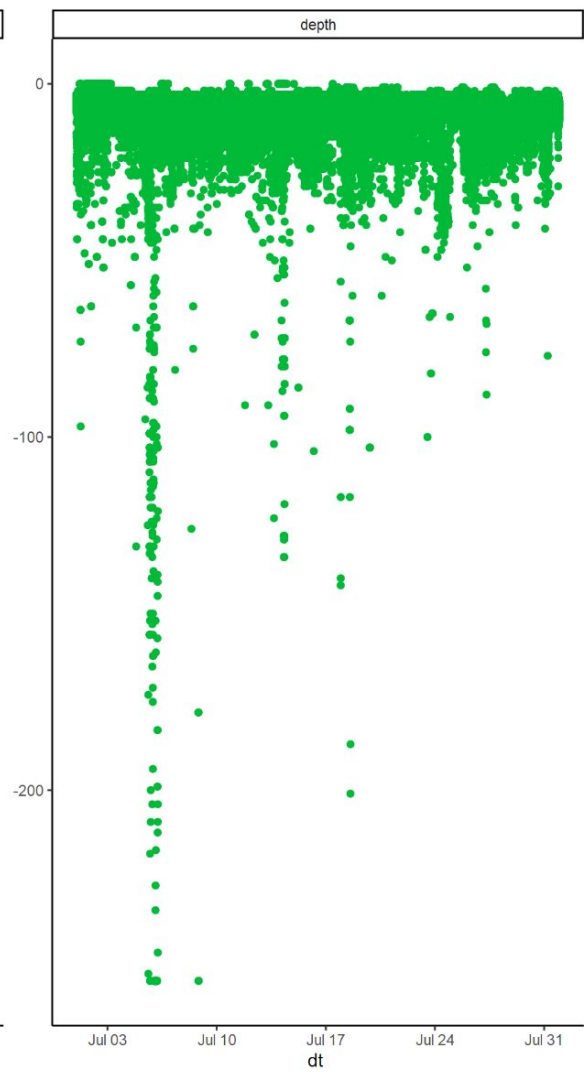
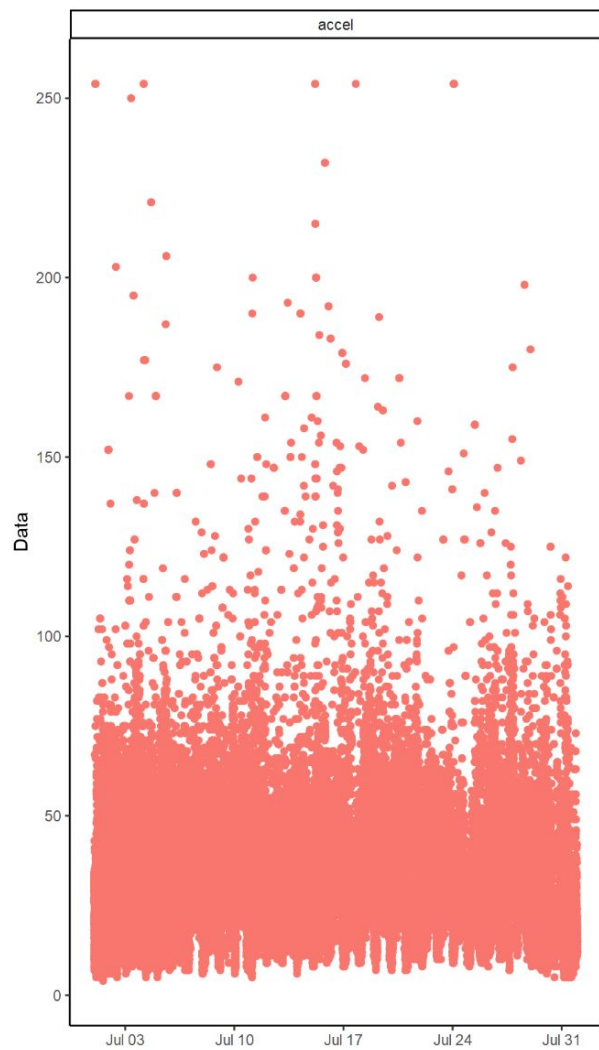


Making some choices

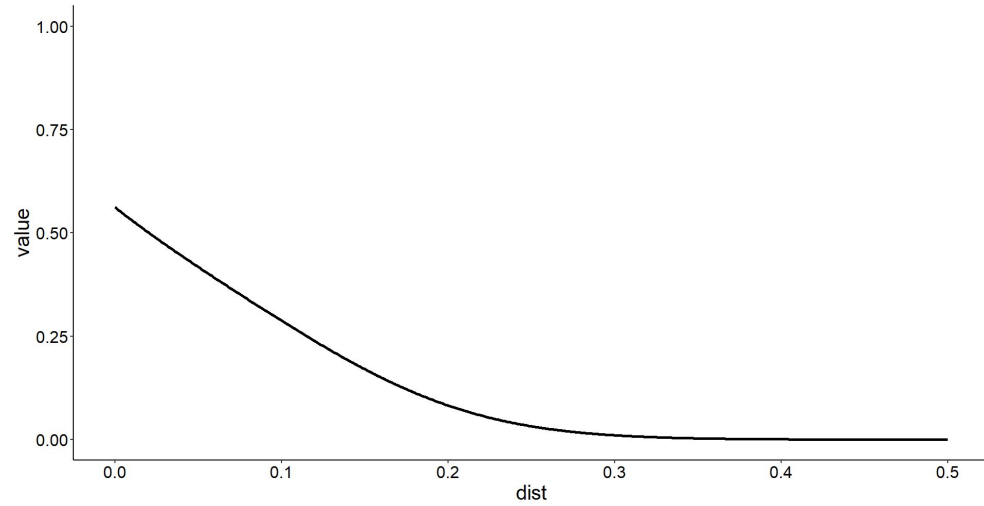
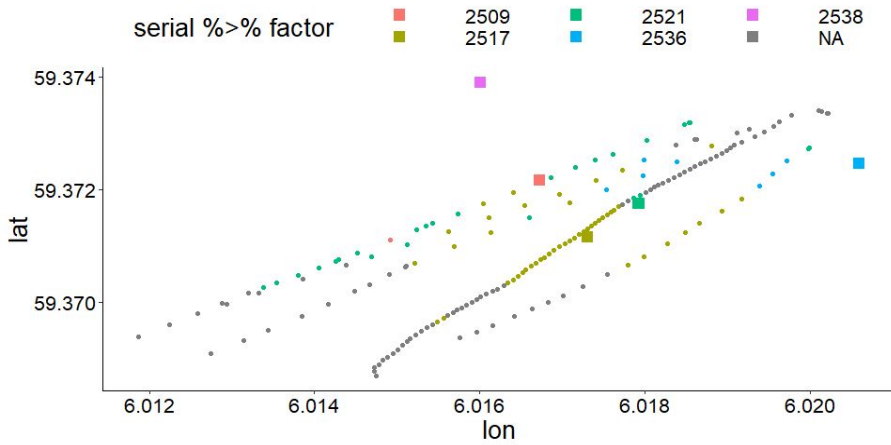


5. Pick the right regression family

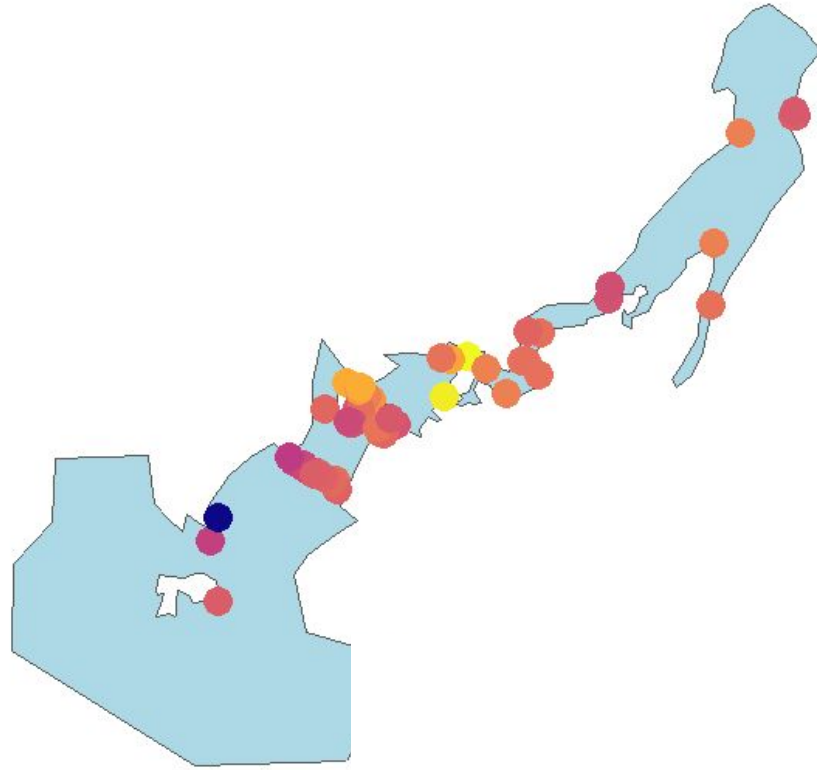
Gaussian	Change in depth, temperature, or acceleration, location along a one-dimensional gradient (e.g. latitude, longitude) where the zero point on the gradient is arbitrary	Pillans et al. (2022)
Binomial	Presence or absence, inside or outside area of interest, at risk or not at risk of exposure based on time and location of a detected animal, probability of being at rest at a given time	Lennox et al. (2022)
Conditional logistic	Modelling true presence and pseudo-absence data from tracking data on environmental covariates to calculate selection strength	McCabe et al. (2021) bird data
Cox.ph	Modelling time-to-event for individually tagged animals to reach an outcome such as departure from an area, recapture by fishers, or natural mortality (e.g. Whoriskey et al. 2019) with smoothed covariates.	Storms et al. (2022) tracked moths
Negative binomial	Count of individuals at a location	Bino et al. (2018)
Poisson	Count of individuals at a location	Hessler et al. (2023)
Gamma	Depth, temperature, acceleration	Nash et al. 2022
Tweedie	Potentially can be used for modelling continuous zero-inflated variables, such as movement speed for individuals that alternate between moving and resting	Westrelin et al. (2018); Rodrigues et al. (2022)
Beta	Fraction of the day spent active, Depth as a fraction of the water column	Secor et al. (2021)



Range testing with GAMs

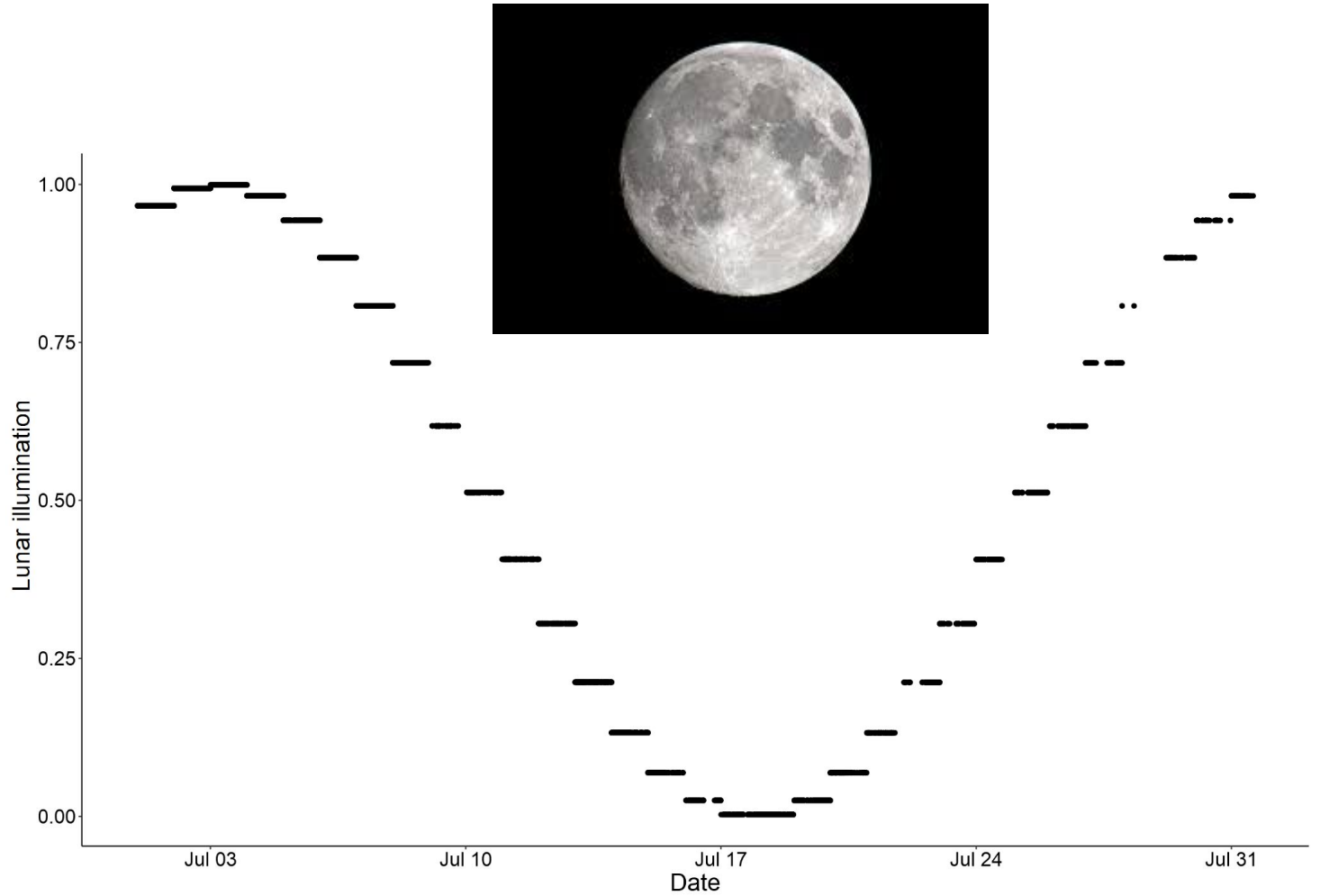


Mean acceleration by sampling point

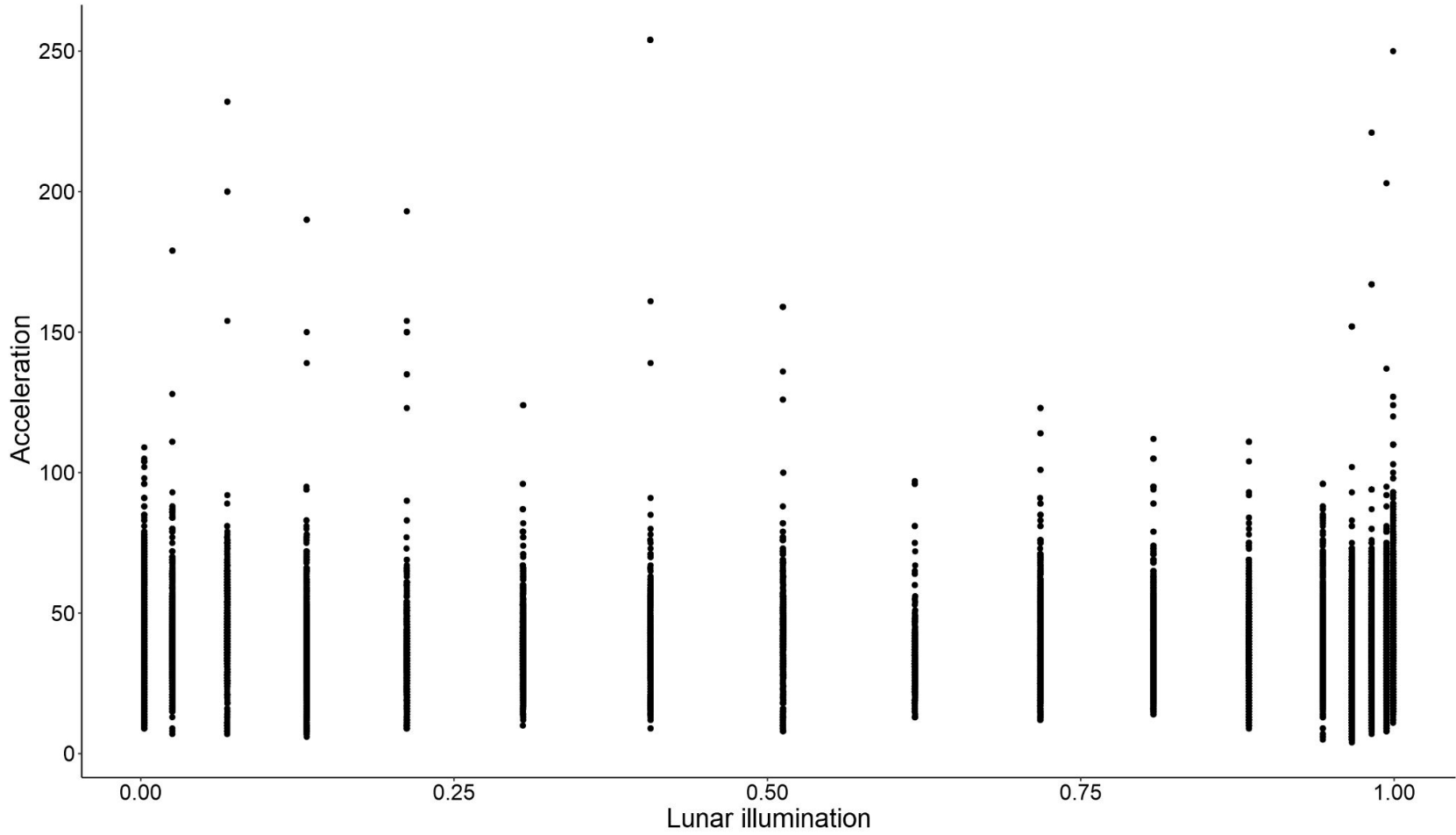


Lunar effects

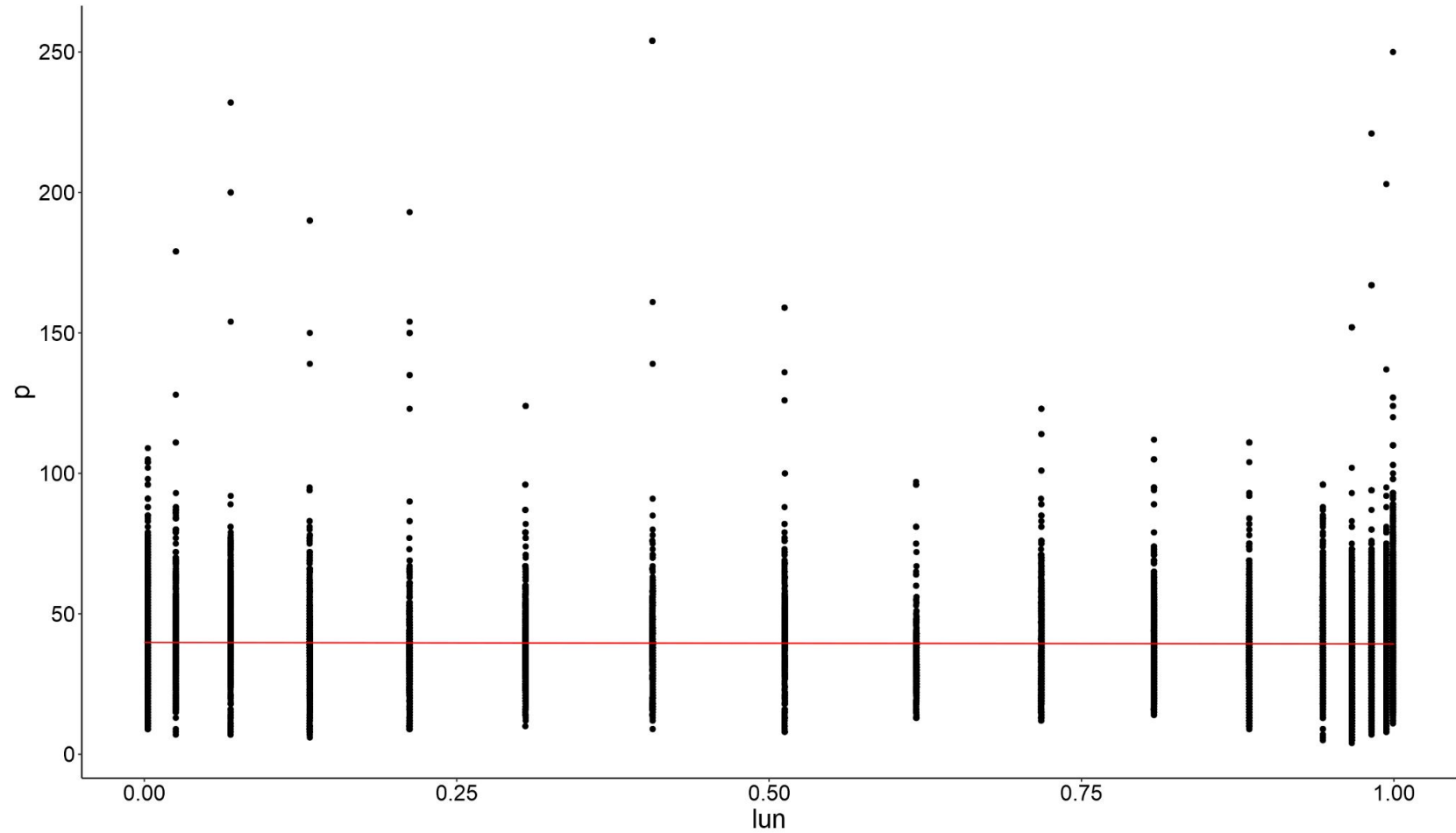
- MOON
- Important correlation to date



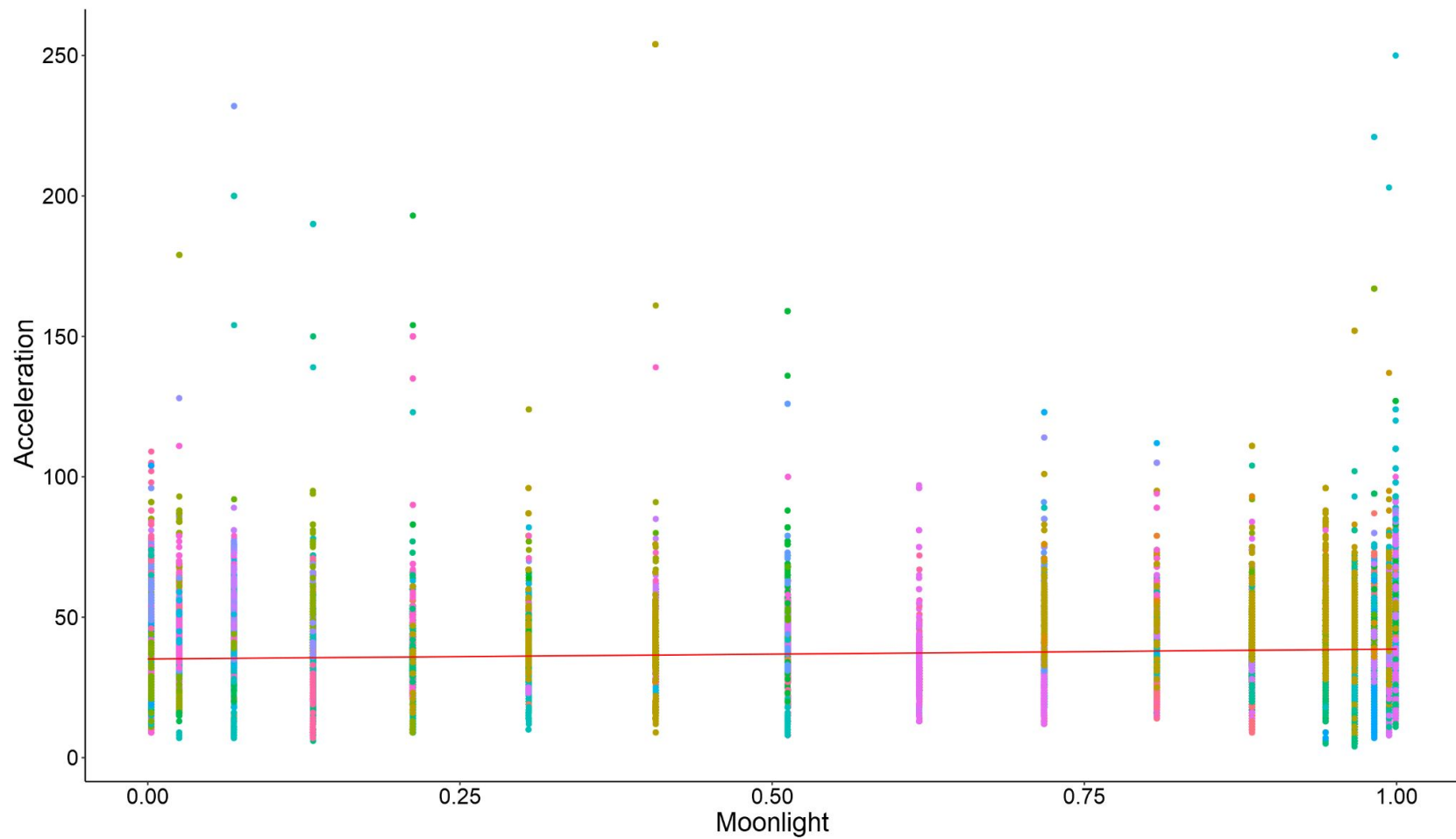
Is activity affected by lunar illumination?



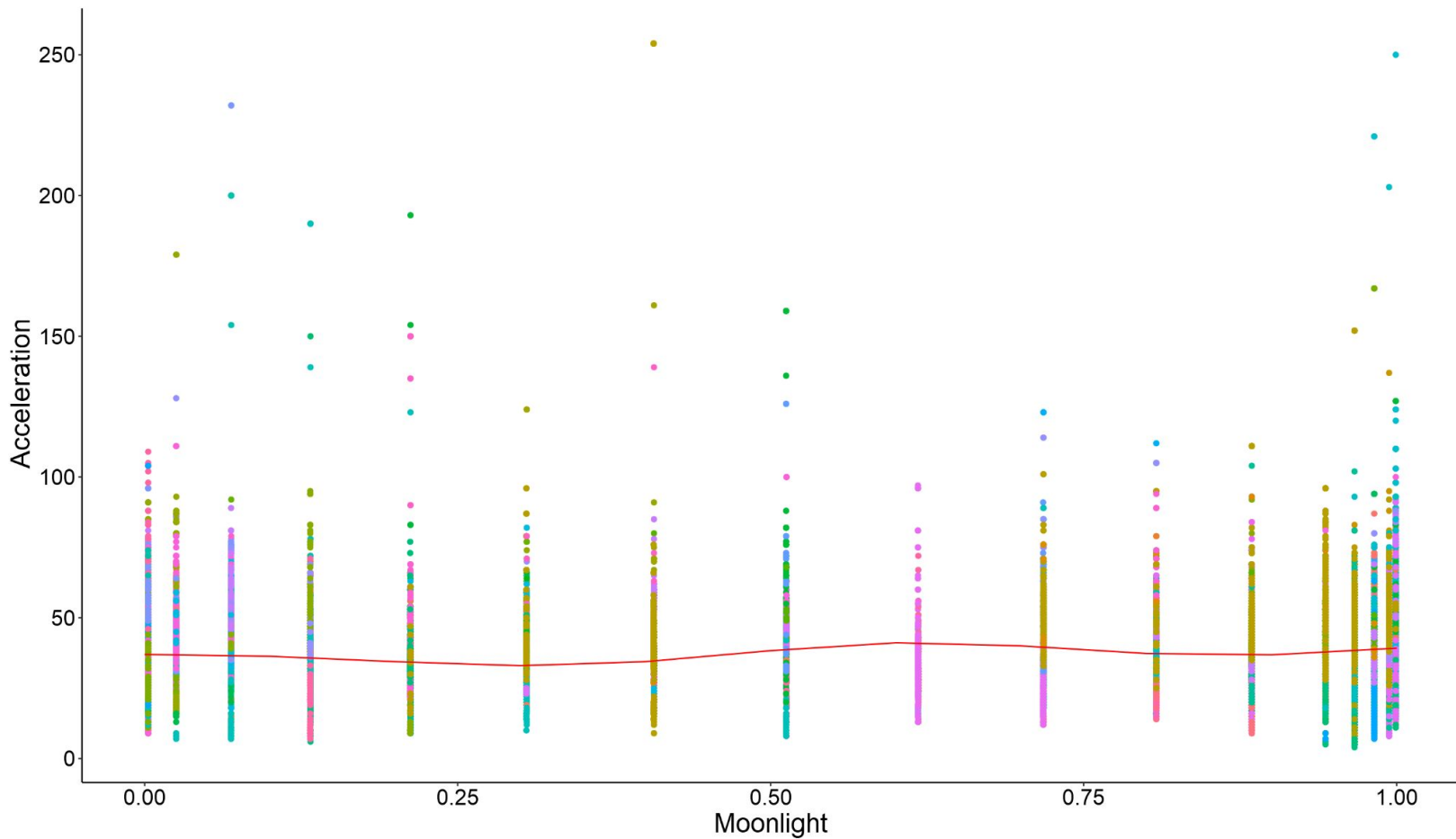
Linear regression acceleration ~ moonlight



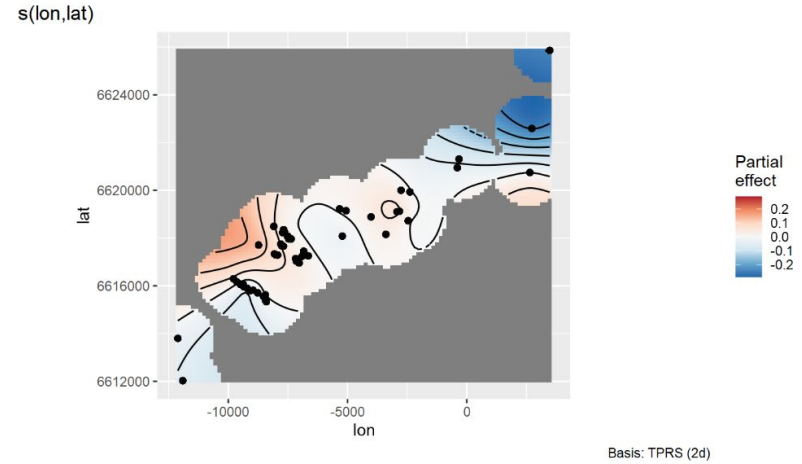
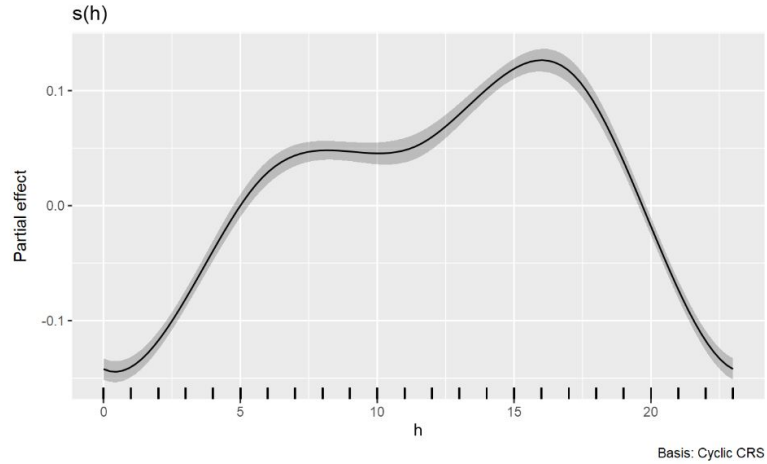
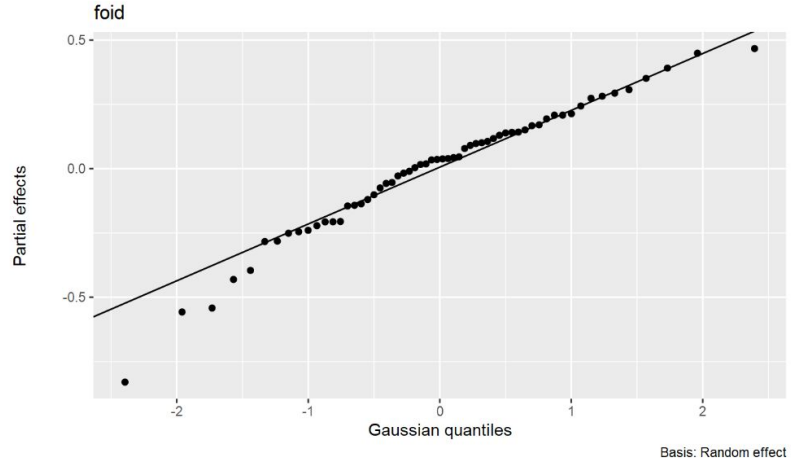
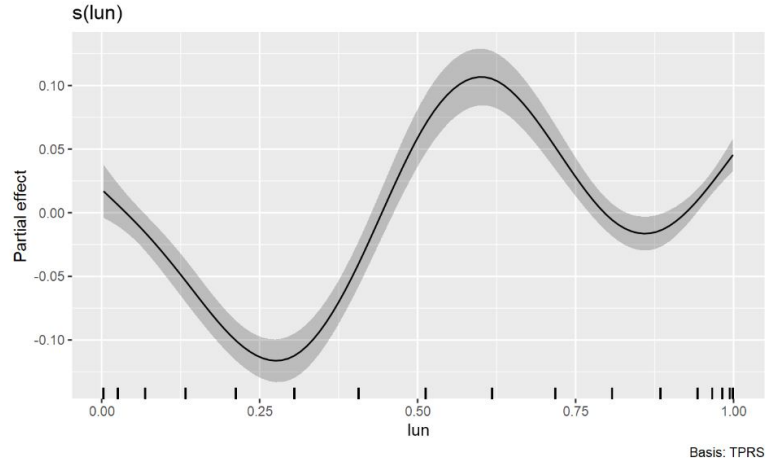
Linear mixed regression acceleration ~ moonlight + (1|ID)



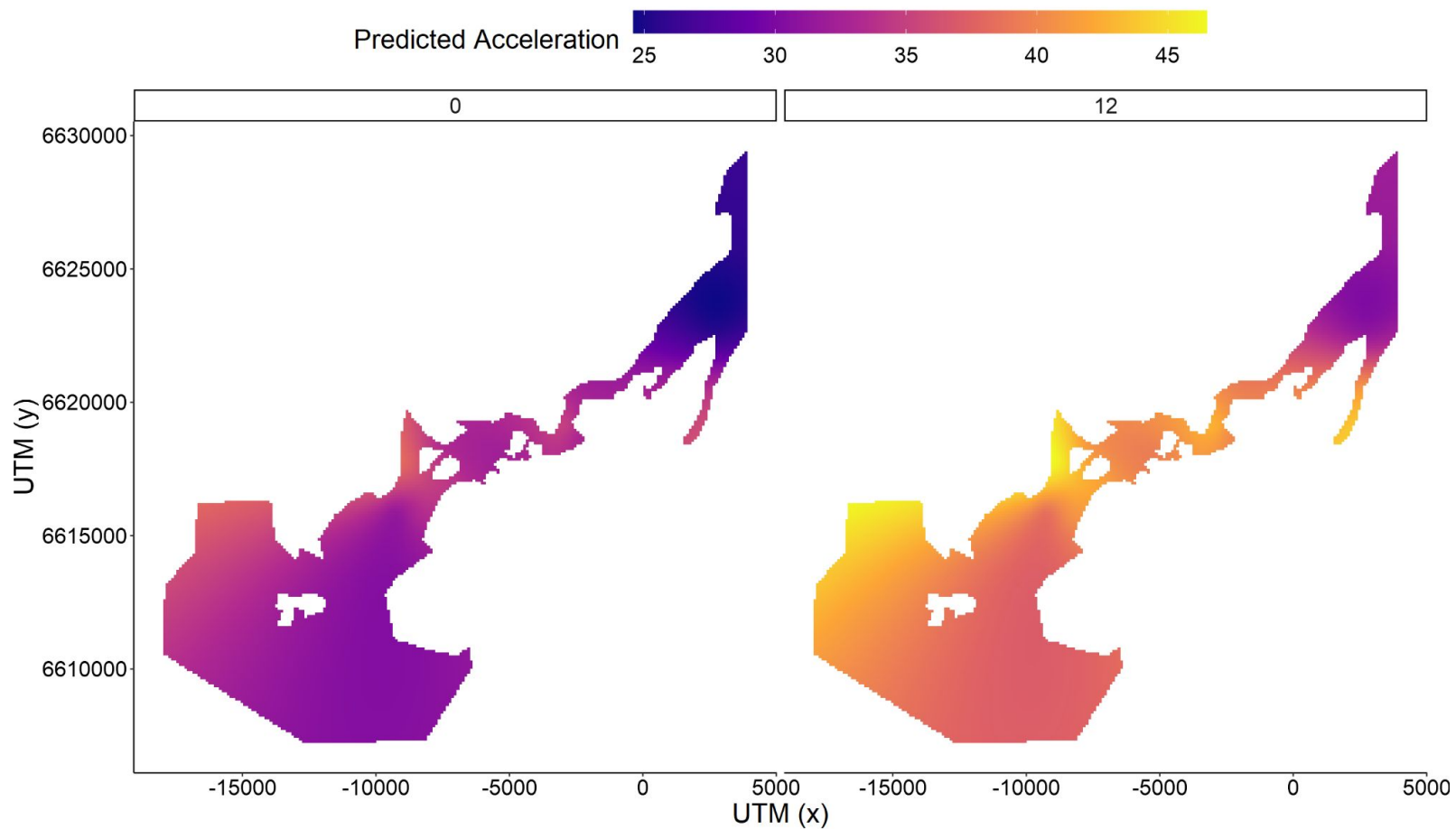
Additive mixed regression moonlight ~ s(moonlight) + (1|ID)



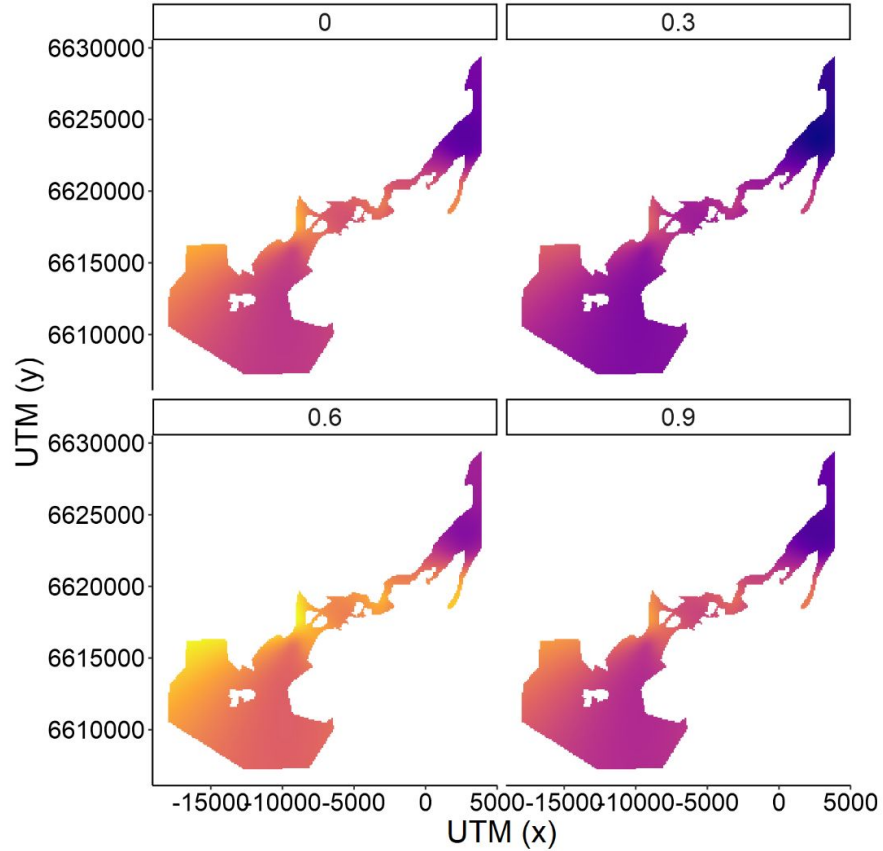
Full model summary with gratia::draw



Complex spatiotemporal model



Lunar effects across space



FAQ: Why smooths and not SPDE?

updates

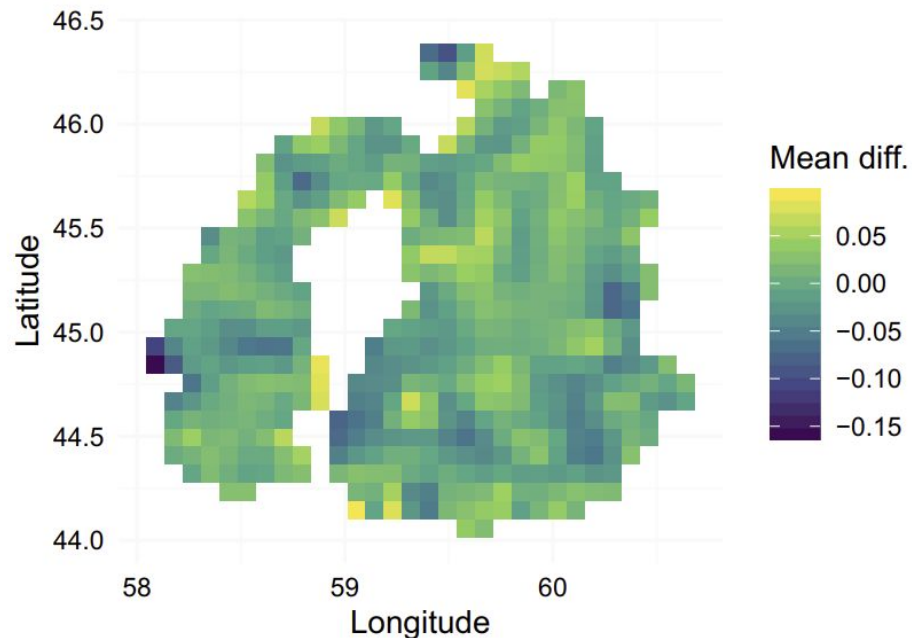
Understanding the Stochastic Partial Differential Equation Approach to Smoothing

David L. MILLER¹, Richard GLENNIE², and Andrew E. SEATON³

Correlation and smoothness are terms used to describe a wide variety of random quantities. In time, space, and many other domains, they both imply the same idea: quantities that occur closer together are more similar than those further apart. Two popular statistical models that represent this idea are basis-penalty smoothers (Wood in *Texts in statistical science*, CRC Press, Boca Raton, 2017) and stochastic partial differential equations (SPDEs) (Lindgren et al. in *J R Stat Soc Series B (Stat Methodol)* 73(4):423–498, 2011). In this paper, we discuss how the SPDE can be interpreted as a smoothing penalty and can be fitted using the R package `mgcv`, allowing practitioners with existing knowledge of smoothing penalties to better understand the implementation and theory behind the SPDE approach.

Supplementary materials accompanying this paper appear online.

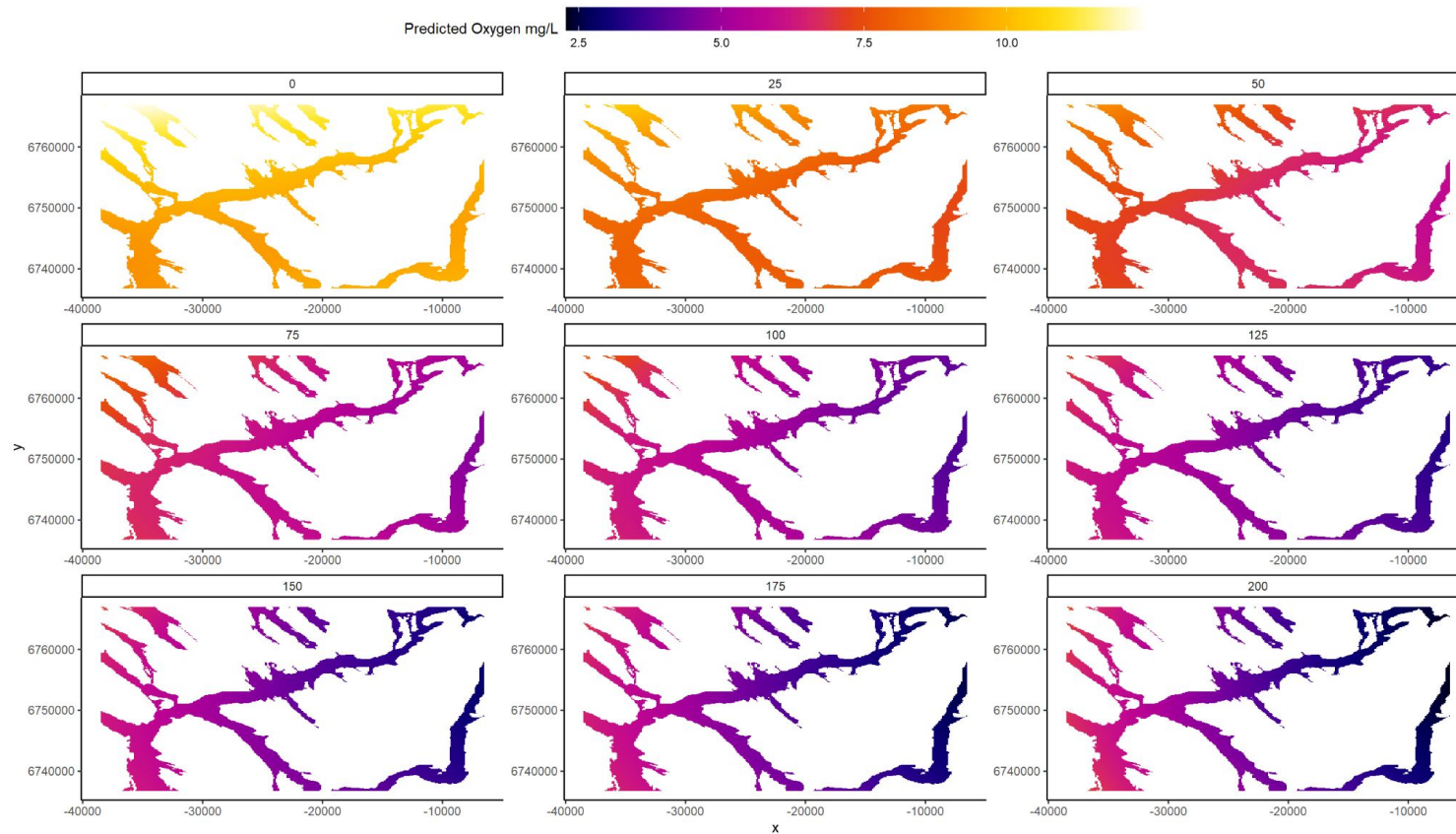
Key Words: Smoothing; Stochastic partial differential equations; Generalized additive model; Spatial modelling; Basis-penalty smoothing.



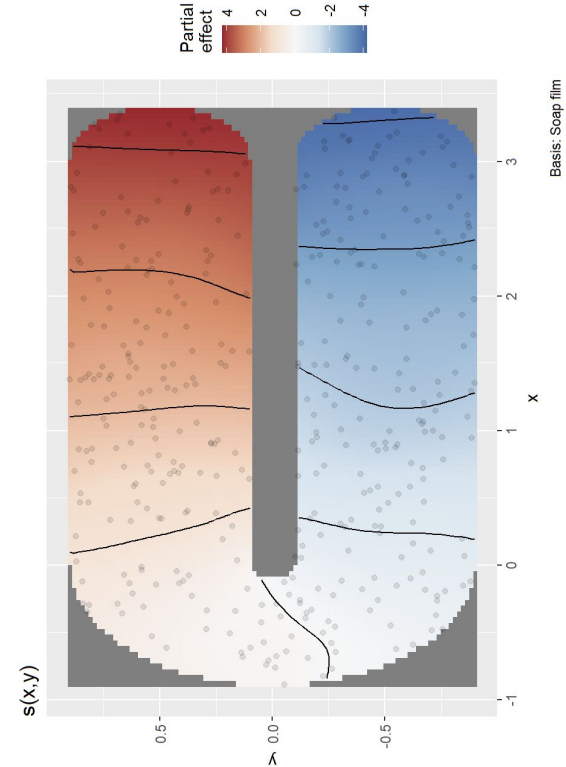
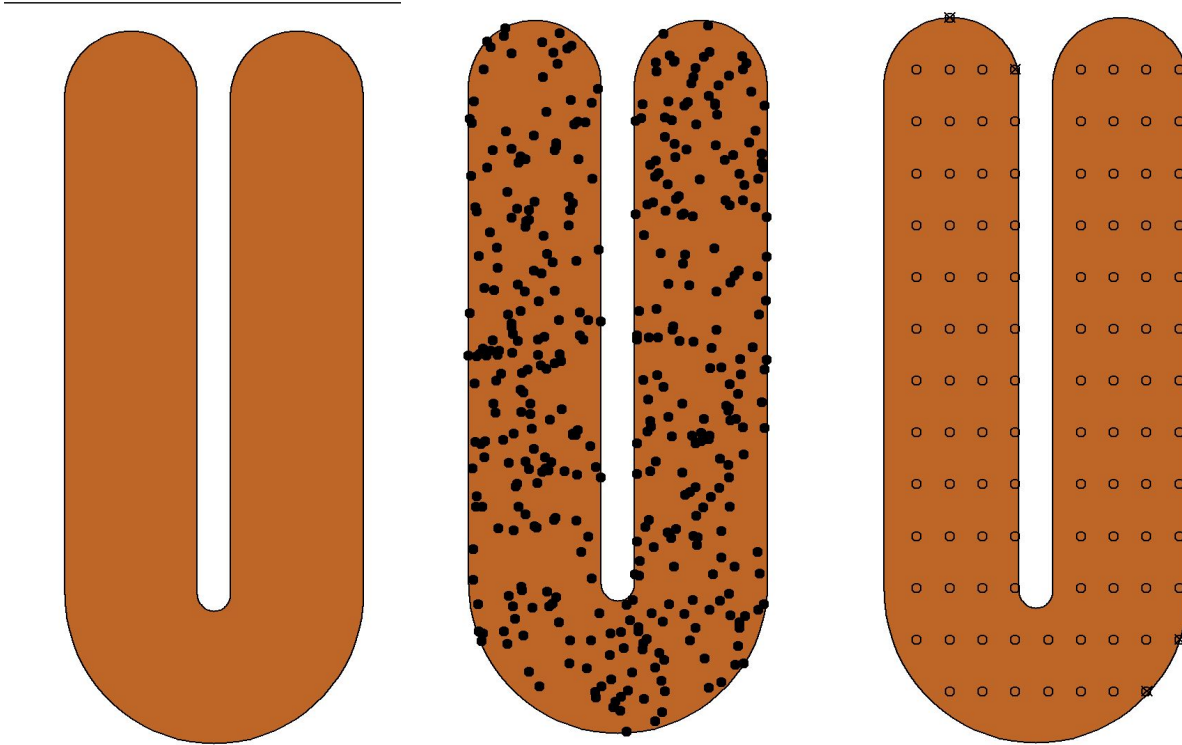
1. INTRODUCTION

FAQ: Can we smooth in three spatial dimensions?

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gam(oxygen ~ s(x, y, z), data=oxygen, method="reml")
```

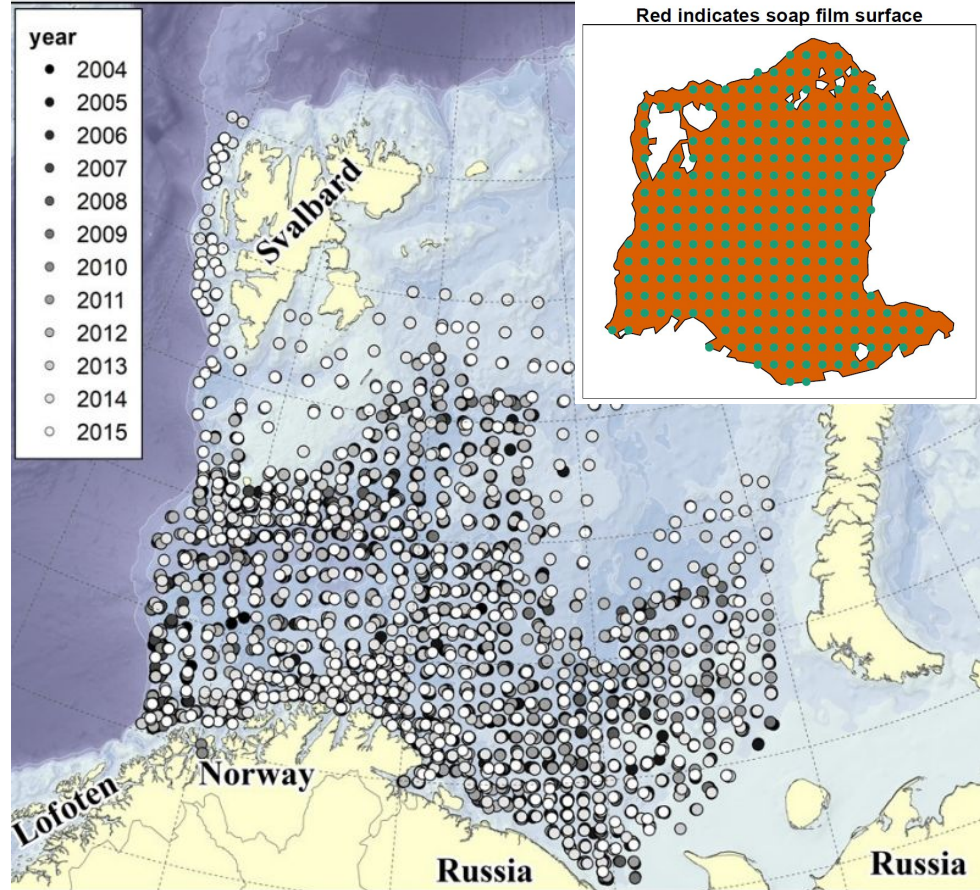
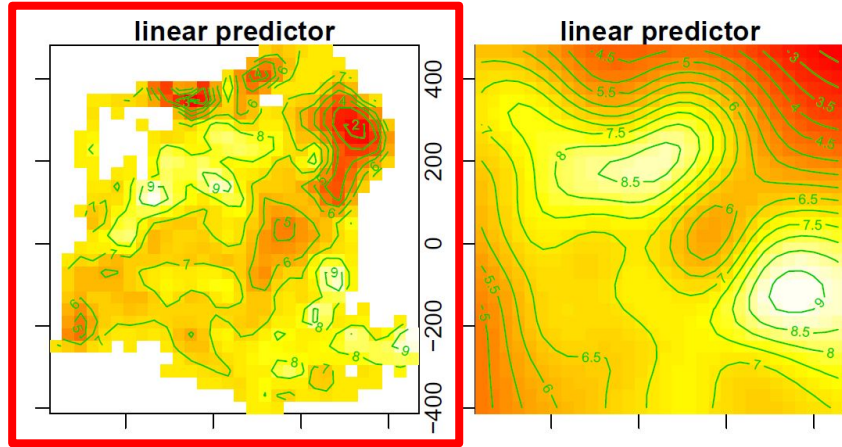


FAQ: Can we smooth around borders?



<https://blog.benjaminhlna.com/post/s/post-with-code/soapcheckr/>

FAQ: Can we smooth around borders?



RESEARCH ARTICLE

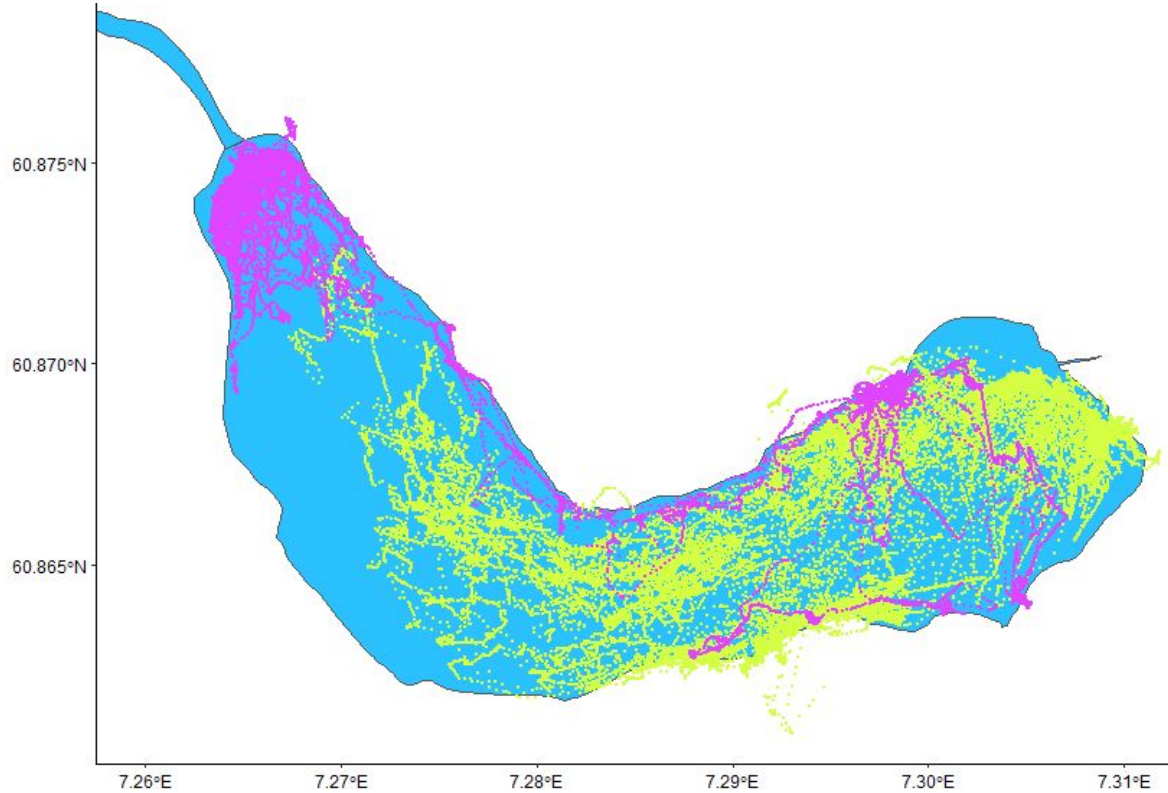
Seasonal dynamics of spatial distributions and overlap between Northeast Arctic cod (*Gadus morhua*) and capelin (*Mallotus villosus*) in the Barents Sea

Johanna Fall^{1*}, Lorenzo Ciannelli², Georg Skaret¹, Edda Johannsen¹

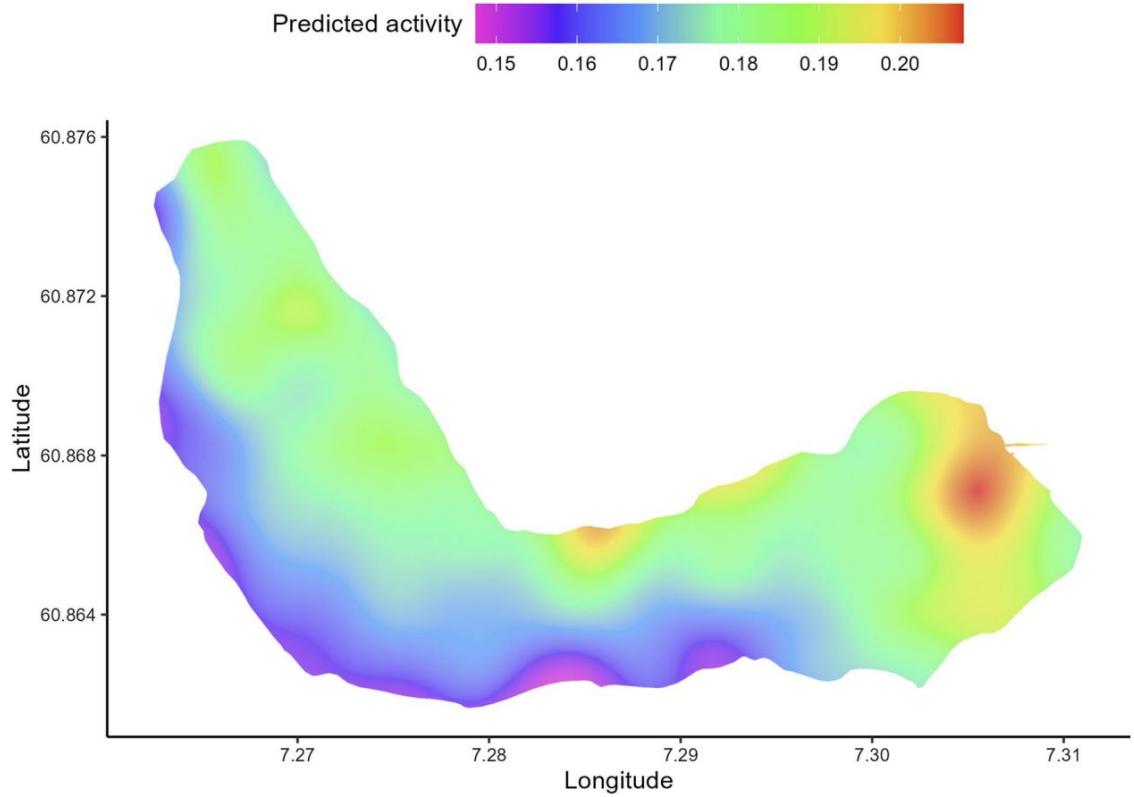
¹ Institute of Marine Research, Bergen, Norway, ² College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, United States of America

* johanna.fall@hi.no

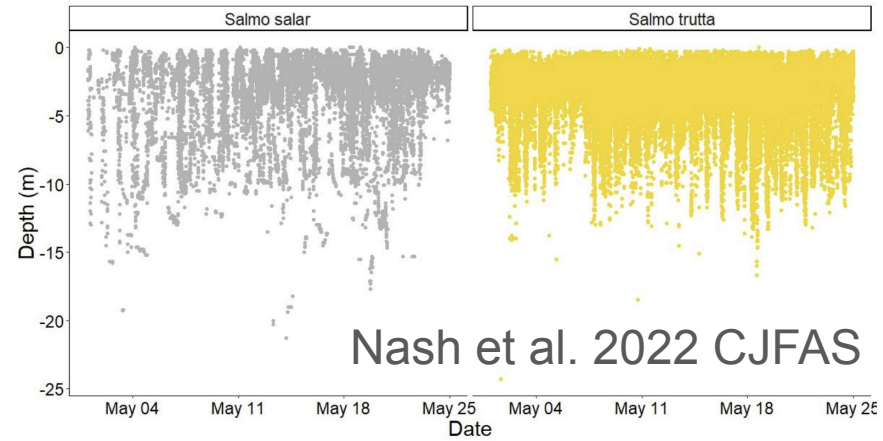
My favourite example 1



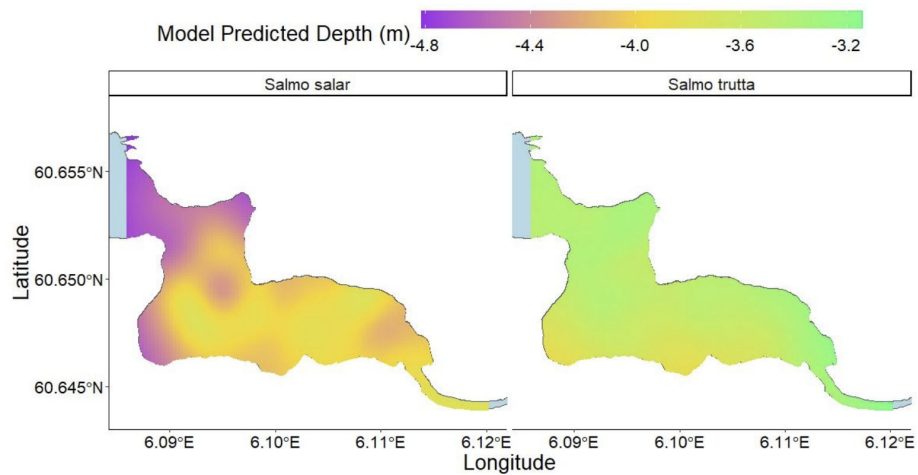
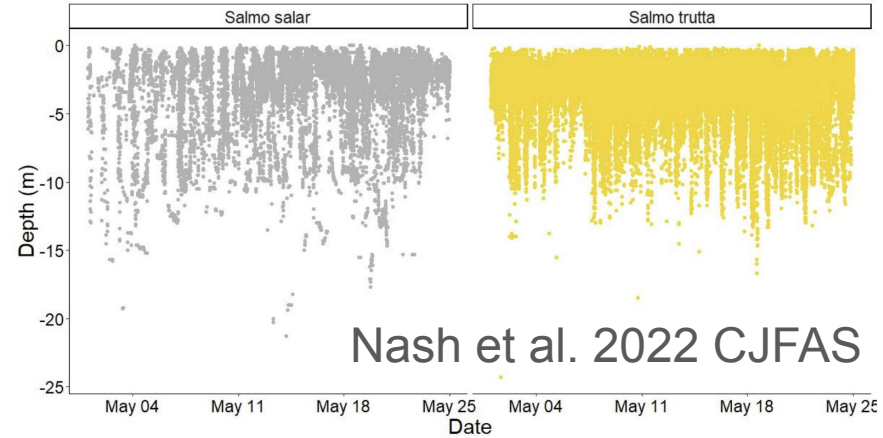
My favourite example 1



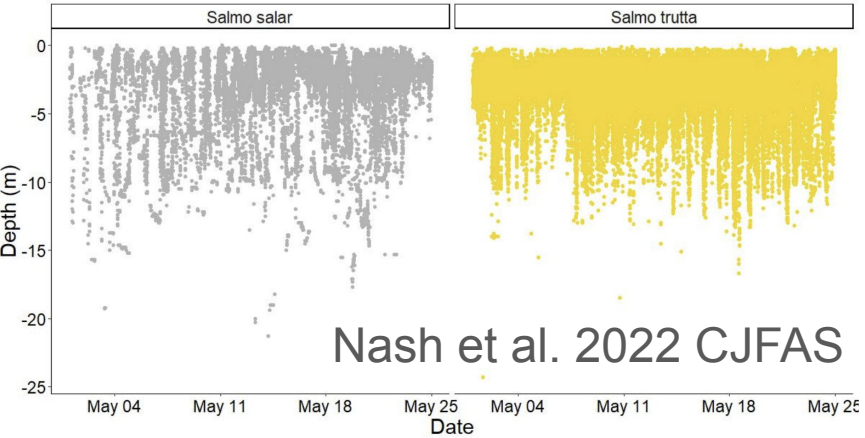
My favourite example 2



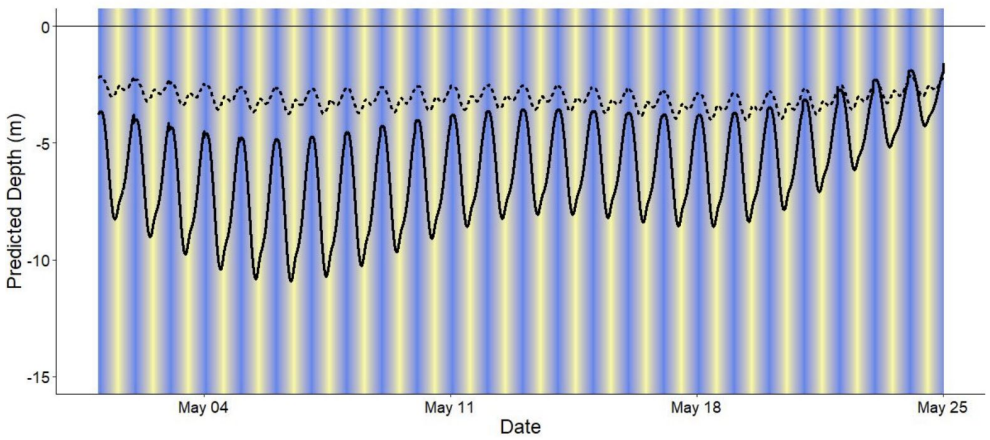
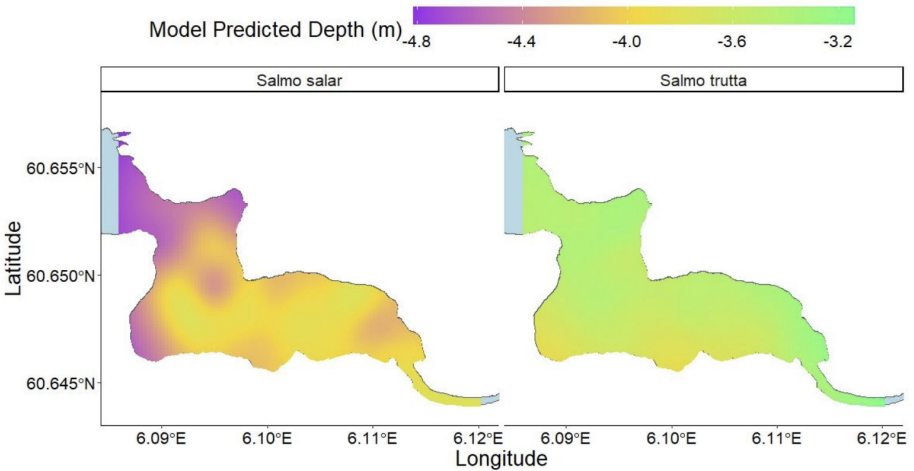
My favourite example 2



My favourite example 2



Species ——— *Salmo salar* - - - - *Salmo trutta* Azimuth -3 -2 -1 0 1 2 3



What can GAM theory teach us about designing studies

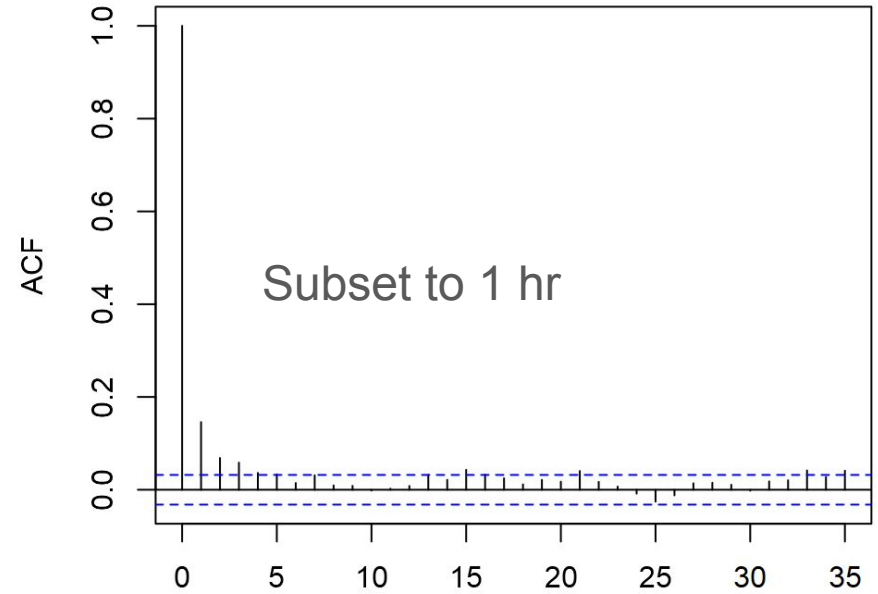
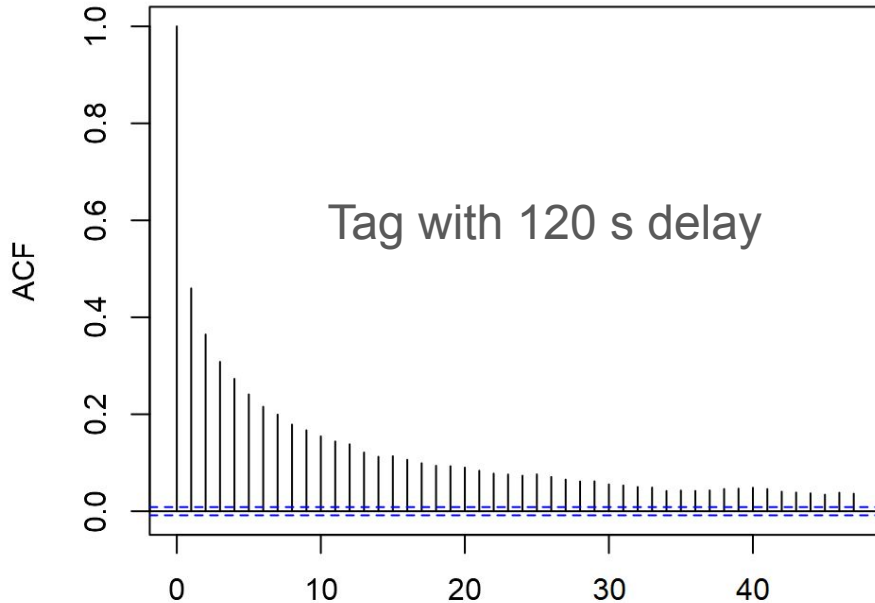
Lesson 1- sampling rates

- Transmitters provide immense volumes of data, particularly from sensors
- Depth, temp, accel are highly autocorrelated and often have to be subsampled
- When animals do not leave a study area, longer sampling intervals can be used



Subsetting sensor data to reduce temporal autocorrelation

- Full time series highly autocorrelated
- Subset series has less autocorrelation



What can GAM theory teach us about designing studies

Lesson 2- array design

- Using spatial smoothers allows us to interpolate some data
- Should consider how far is appropriate to smooth across based on changes in habitat and water chemistry
- Design receiver grids to limit excessive smoothing
- Where possible, use evenly gridded sampling designs



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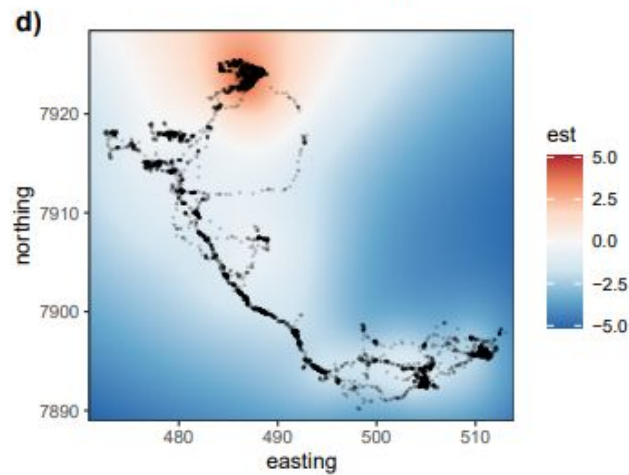
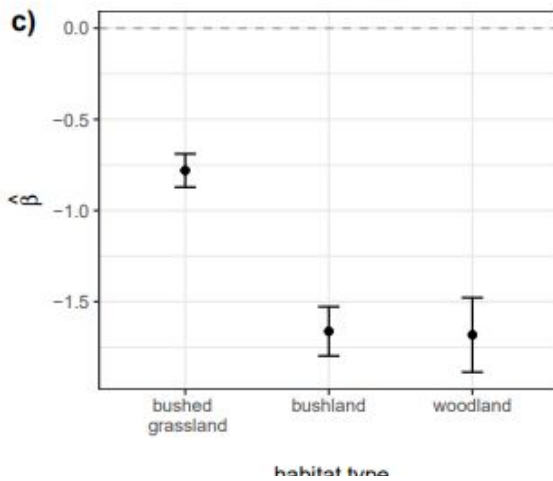
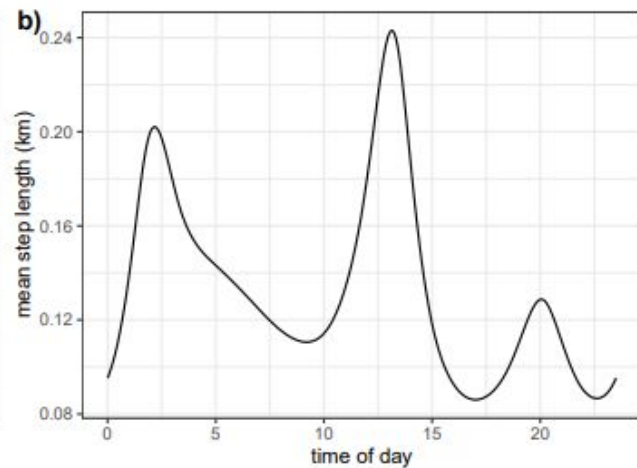
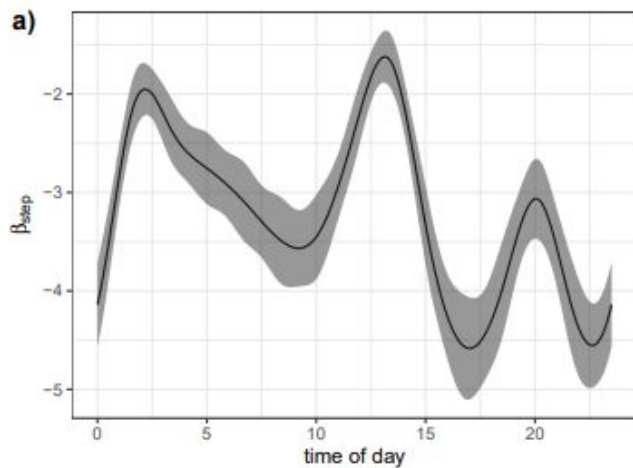


Novel areas and applications of GAMs

- Validating GAMs for step selection analysis
- Extending GAMs to include point process models
- Incorporating phylogenetic correlations to account for violation of independence
- Examples of three dimensional spatial fields



Step Selection



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