

1 RH: General framework for animal movement

2 **A general discrete-time modeling framework for animal movement**
3 **using multi-state random walks**

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25 *Abstract.* Recent developments in animal tracking technology have permitted the
26 collection of detailed data on the movement paths of individuals from many species.
27 However, analysis methods for these data have not developed at a similar pace, largely
28 due to a lack of suitable candidate models, coupled with the technical difficulties of
29 fitting such models to data. To facilitate a general modeling framework, we propose
30 that complex movement paths can be conceived as a series of movement strategies
31 among which animals transition as they are affected by changes in their internal and
32 external environment. We synthesize previously existing and novel methodologies to
33 develop a general suite of mechanistic models based on biased and correlated random
34 walks that allow different behavioral states for directed (e.g., migration), exploratory
35 (e.g., dispersal), area-restricted (e.g., foraging), and other types of movement. Using
36 this “tool-box” of nested model components, multi-state movement models may be
37 custom-built for a wide variety of species and applications. As a unified state-space
38 modeling framework, it allows the simultaneous investigation of numerous hypotheses
39 about animal movement from imperfectly observed data, including time allocations to
40 different movement behavior states, transitions between states, the use of memory or
41 navigation, and strengths of attraction (or repulsion) to specific locations. The inclusion
42 of covariate information permits further investigation of specific hypotheses related to
43 factors driving different types of movement behavior. Using reversible jump Markov
44 chain Monte Carlo methods to facilitate Bayesian model selection and multi-model
45 inference, we apply the proposed methodology to real data by adapting it to the natural
46 history of the grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) in the North Sea. Although previous grey
47 seal studies tended to focus on correlated movements, we found overwhelming evidence
48 that bias towards haul-out or foraging locations better explained seal movement than
49 simple or correlated random walks. Posterior model probabilities also provided

50 evidence that seals transition among directed, area-restricted, and exploratory
51 movements associated with haul-out, foraging, and other behaviors. With this intuitive
52 framework for modeling and interpreting animal movement, we believe the
53 development and application of bespoke movement models will become more
54 accessible to ecologists and non-statisticians.

55 *Key words: animal location data, biased correlated random walk, movement*
56 *model, state-space model, switching behavior, telemetry.*

57 INTRODUCTION

58 Our ability to track and monitor wildlife populations has greatly improved with recent
59 technological advancements. These include animal-borne devices that allow the
60 collection of accurate time-series of individual location data (McConnell et al. 2010,
61 Tomkiewicz et al. 2010), biotelemetry devices providing physiological information
62 (Cooke et al. 2004, Payne et al. 2010), and remote sensing and geographic information
63 system (GIS) technologies for the acquisition of detailed landscape data at multiple
64 spatial scales (Gao 2002). Along with these developments, new challenges have arisen
65 in the collection, management, and analysis of geo-referenced animal location data
66 (Cagnacci et al. 2010, Urbano et al. 2010).

67 Although Global Positioning System (GPS) and other relocation technologies
68 have enabled the collection of large amounts of animal location data from diverse
69 terrestrial and aquatic taxa (Tomkiewicz et al. 2010), model development for the
70 analysis of these data has lagged behind. This is beginning to change as new methods
71 continue to appear in the ecological literature (Holyoak et al. 2008, Schick et al. 2008),
72 but unlike many other areas of ecology, no general estimation framework has been
73 developed for the analysis of movement trajectories that is widely accepted by the
74 practitioners collecting the majority of these data sets. For example, there are well-

75 established inferential methods in population and community ecology for examining
76 patterns of abundance (e.g., Otis et al. 1978, Buckland et al. 2001, Borchers et al. 2002),
77 species occurrence (e.g., MacKenzie et al. 2006), and related vital rates that address
78 uncertainties (e.g., imperfect detection) associated with the process by which the data
79 were obtained (Williams et al. 2002, King et al. 2009). There also exists readily
80 accessible software for the analysis of these data by wildlife professionals (e.g., White
81 and Burnham 1999, Thomas et al. 2010). There remains a similar need (and desire) to
82 develop accessible, inferential data analysis methods in movement ecology (Schwarz
83 2009, Morales et al. 2010).

84 As animals respond to physiological and environmental stimuli, they often
85 exhibit different movement behavior states (or modes). Simple examples include
86 “exploratory” and “encamped” states in elk (Morales et al. 2004) or, equivalently,
87 “traveling” and “foraging” states in grey seals (Breed et al. 2009), where “exploratory”
88 or “traveling” describe movement states associated with greater directional persistence
89 and velocity relative to the “encamped” or “foraging” states. Inferring patterns and
90 dynamics of movement from time-series of animal location data often involves the
91 estimation of movement parameters associated with different types of movement
92 behavior states. However, because these states often cannot be observed directly, they
93 must be inferred based on trajectories alone in the absence of ancillary information (but
94 see *Discussion*). Estimation is complicated further by the fact that animal location data
95 often contain considerable observation error in both time and space, as well as missing
96 (or intermittent) observations. Sophisticated statistical models of the underlying
97 movement and observation process are therefore required to facilitate reliable inference
98 (Jonsen et al. 2005, Patterson et al. 2008, Schick et al. 2008).

99 A variety of approaches for analyzing animal location data have been proposed
100 in recent years, and these primarily differ in the spatio-temporal conceptualization of the
101 movement process. These include discrete-time and discrete-space (Schwarz et al.
102 1993, Brownie et al 1993, Dupuis 1995, King and Brooks 2002), discrete-time and
103 continuous-space (Morales et al. 2004, Jonsen et al. 2005), continuous-time and
104 discrete-space (Ovaskainen et al. 2008), or continuous-time and continuous-space
105 (Blackwell 2003, Johnson et al. 2008) movement process models. Similarly, latent
106 behaviors associated with different types of movement can be treated as continuous
107 (Forester et al. 2007) or discrete (Morales et al. 2004, Jonsen et al. 2005) states among
108 which animals transition in response to changes in their internal and external
109 environment. The representation of movement also differs among these approaches, by
110 specifying the movement process on the positions themselves (Blackwell 2003, Jonsen
111 et al. 2006) or derived quantities, such as the differences between consecutive
112 coordinates (Jonsen et al. 2005, Johnson et al. 2008), step lengths (Forester et al. 2007),
113 or both step lengths and turning angles (Morales et al. 2004). Although earlier methods
114 ignored error in the timing and location of observations (Blackwell 2003, Morales et al.
115 2004), most recent approaches simultaneously model both the movement process and
116 observation process using state-space methods (Anderson-Sprecher and Ledolter 1991,
117 Jonsen et al. 2005, Johnson et al. 2008, Patterson et al. 2008).

118 The myriad of proposed methodologies for analyzing movement data makes
119 selection of any particular method (or model) a difficult task. The most sophisticated
120 continuous-time approaches, although appealing from a theoretical perspective, are
121 prohibitively technical for many non-statisticians. Further, continuous-time and
122 continuous-behavior models are less appealing to practitioners because the parameters
123 (e.g., instantaneous diffusion process parameters) can be difficult to interpret

124 biologically. Discrete-space models often necessitate spatial resolutions requiring high-
125 dimensional matrices or integrals that can lead to computational difficulties. Perhaps
126 most inhibiting to general use by ecologists is the fact that the majority of movement
127 models developed to date have focused on species-specific applications and relatively
128 few behavioral states, with little scope for generalization. Given these challenges, it is
129 certainly not surprising that even less attention has been given to strategies for model
130 selection and multi-model inference (Hoeting et al. 1999, Burnham and Anderson 2002,
131 King et al. 2009) in the analysis of movement data (but see Morales et al. 2004, King
132 and Brooks 2002; 2004).

133 We synthesize many of the appealing elements of previous approaches (e.g.,
134 Dunn and Gipson 1977, Blackwell 1997, King and Brooks 2002, Blackwell et al. 2003,
135 Morales et al. 2004, Jonsen et al. 2005, Johnson et al. 2008) in combination with novel
136 methodologies to formulate a general modeling strategy for individual animal
137 movement in discrete-time and continuous-space that can be readily adapted to
138 accommodate many different types of movement and behavioral states. With an
139 increased emphasis on ecological inference from animal location data, these states can
140 be associated with directed (e.g., migratory or evasive), area-restricted (e.g., foraging or
141 nesting), exploratory (e.g., dispersal or searching), and correlated movements as
142 dictated by the species and application of interest. Using Bayesian analysis methods,
143 we also propose a model selection and multi-model inference procedure based on
144 weights of evidence for these different types of movement behaviors. We demonstrate
145 the use of this mechanistic, inferential modeling framework by adapting it to the natural
146 history of the grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) in the North Sea, an apex marine predator
147 often demonstrating characteristically complex movement patterns among haul-out
148 colonies and foraging patches.

149 METHODS

150 *A general model for individual movement in discrete time*

151 We first formulate a general model for animal movement as a mixture of discrete-time
 152 random walks. An individual may switch among a set of discrete movement behavior
 153 states $z = 1, \dots, Z$, where each state is characterized by distributions for the step length
 154 and direction (or bearing) of movement between consecutive positions (X_{t-1}, Y_{t-1}) and
 155 (X_t, Y_t) for each time step $t = 1, \dots, T$. We assume the T time steps are of equal length
 156 (but see *State-space formulation*). The set of Z movement behavior states can include
 157 directed movements towards particular locations or "exploratory" movements that are
 158 not associated with any particular location. When these movement behavior states are
 159 not directly observable, this can be viewed as a hidden Markov model (Zucchini and
 160 MacDonald 2009, Langrock et al. 2012).

161 For flexibility and mathematical convenience, we follow Morales et al. (2004)
 162 by selecting a Weibull distribution for the step length (s_t) and a wrapped Cauchy
 163 distribution for the direction (ϕ_t) of movement, but other distributions for step length
 164 (e.g., gamma) or direction (e.g., von Mises) could also be used (Codling et al. 2010).
 165 The movement process model is therefore a discrete-time, continuous-space, multi-state
 166 random walk with step length $[s_t | z_t = i] \sim \text{Weibull}(a_i, b_i)$ and direction
 167 $[\phi_t | z_t = i] \sim \text{wCauchy}(\mu_i, \rho_i)$. Specifically, we have the probability density functions

168
$$f(s_t | z_t = i) = \frac{b_i}{a_i} \left(\frac{s_t}{a_i} \right)^{b_i-1} \exp\left[-(s_t / a_i)^{b_i}\right]$$

169 and

170
$$f(\phi_t | z_t = i) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{1 - \rho_i^2}{1 + \rho_i^2 - 2\rho_i \cos(\phi_t - \mu_i)}$$

171 for $a_z > 0$, $b_z > 0$, $0 \leq \phi_t < 2\pi$, $0 \leq \mu_z < 2\pi$, $-1 < \rho_z < 1$, and $z = 1, \dots, Z$. Assuming
 172 independence between step length and direction within each movement behavior state
 173 (see *Discussion*), the joint likelihood for s_t and ϕ_t (conditional on the latent state
 174 variable z_t) is:

$$175 \quad f(\mathbf{s}, \boldsymbol{\phi} | \mathbf{z}) = \prod_{t=1}^T f(s_t | z_t) f(\phi_t | z_t).$$

176 For switches between movement behavior states, we assign a categorical
 177 distribution to the latent state variable z_t . The simplest approach assigns every time
 178 step to a movement behavior state independent of previous states or ancillary
 179 information:

$$180 \quad z_t \sim \text{Categorical}(\psi_1, \dots, \psi_Z),$$

181 such that

$$182 \quad \psi_i = \Pr(z_t = i),$$

183 where ψ_i is the (fixed) probability of being in state i at time t , and $\sum_{i=1}^Z \psi_i = 1$. This
 184 assumption is generally unrealistic for animal movements. Alternatively (and more
 185 realistically), one could incorporate memory into the state transition probabilities using
 186 a j th-order Markov process. Assuming movement behavior states were known,
 187 Blackwell (1997; 2003) used a first-order Markov transition matrix to characterize
 188 switches between states in continuous time. For a first-order Markov process in discrete
 189 time,

$$190 \quad [z_t | z_{t-1} = k] \sim \text{Categorical}(\psi_{k,1}, \dots, \psi_{k,Z})$$

191 and

$$192 \quad \psi_{k,i} = \Pr(z_t = i | z_{t-1} = k),$$

193 for $k = 1, \dots, Z$ where $\psi_{k,i}$ is the probability of switching from state k at time $t - 1$ to
194 state i at time t , and $\sum_{i=1}^Z \psi_{k,i} = 1$. We note that this Markovian structure is analogous
195 to the state transition probabilities for multi-state capture-recapture models (e.g.,
196 Brownie et al. 1993, Schwarz et al. 1993).

197 The multi-state movement model is specified according to the particular species
198 and ecological conditions of interest. The various movement behavior states may be
199 solely characterized by biased, correlated, or exploratory types of movement, but
200 environmental covariates and alternative parameterizations may also be utilized to
201 describe the movement process. Below we present a suite of models for different
202 movement characteristics that can be combined to form complex movement behavior
203 states. We emphasize that the proposed models fall under the same general modeling
204 framework, with the more basic models remaining nested within the more complex
205 models. These, and other extensions (see *Discussion*), may therefore be thought of as
206 contributions to a “tool-box”, from which a wide range of bespoke multi-state
207 movement models in discrete time can be assembled. By adding or removing
208 components from the tool-box, one may compare the different models nested within the
209 most general model (see *Example: grey seal movement in the North Sea*). This allows
210 simultaneous investigation of numerous hypotheses about animal movement, including
211 those involving: 1) time allocations to different movement behavior states (i.e., “activity
212 budgets”); 2) the use of navigation for directed movement towards specific locations; 3)
213 the relative strength of bias towards (or away from) specific locations; 4) the existence
214 of spatially-unassociated (but potentially correlated) exploratory movement states; and
215 5) factors affecting transition probabilities between movement behavior states.

216 Biased movements

217 Biased movement behavior states exhibiting attraction (or aversion) to particular
218 locations can be incorporated within the proposed framework. Suppose the set of Z
219 movement behavior states is composed entirely of attractions to one of c different
220 "centers of attraction" (i.e., $Z = c$). Assuming movement at time t is biased towards
221 center of attraction i (i.e., $z_t = i$), we calculate the expected movement direction
222 $(\mu_{i,t})$ as the direction between the individual's previous location (X_{t-1}, Y_{t-1}) and the
223 location of the center of attraction (X_i^*, Y_i^*) at time t . We note that the coordinates of
224 each center of attraction (X_z^*, Y_z^*) , $z = 1, \dots, c$, are not necessarily assumed to be known
225 (see *Example: grey seal movement in the North Sea*).

226 The strength of bias to each center of attraction is determined by the mean vector
227 length of the wrapped Cauchy distribution ($0 \leq \rho_z < 1$). This strength of bias need not
228 be constant. For example, in some instances one may expect less directed movement
229 once an individual has reached the vicinity of the current center of attraction, so that we
230 may specify:

$$231 \quad \rho_{z,t} = \tanh(r_z \delta_t)$$

232 where δ_t is some metric of the distance (e.g., Euclidean) to the current center of
233 attraction, and $r_z \geq 0$ is a (state-dependent) scaling parameter (see *Appendix A*). As an
234 individual is located closer to the current center of attraction, $\rho_{z,t} \rightarrow 0$, and the
235 movement direction is uniformly distributed on the unit circle. This allows for unbiased
236 area-restricted searches (e.g., "encamped" or "foraging" types of movement, *sensu*
237 Morales et al. 2004 and Breed et al. 2009) once in the vicinity of the current center of
238 attraction. As an individual is located further from the current center of attraction,

239 $\rho_{z,t} \rightarrow 1$, and ϕ_t is not allowed to deviate from $\mu_{z,t}$ (Figure 1a). We note that this
 240 formulation also permits bias away from a “center of repulsion” when $-1 < \rho_z \leq 0$.

241 More complicated structural forms may be utilized for ρ_z . For example, when
 242 far away, an animal may have only a general sense of the location of a center of
 243 attraction, but the movement direction draws closer to $\mu_{z,t}$ as the distance to the center
 244 of attraction decreases (i.e., the individual “hones in” on its target). An additional
 245 quadratic term (q_z) allows this type of behavior to be included in the model:

$$246 \quad \rho_{z,t} = \tanh(r_z \delta_t + q_z \delta_t^2),$$

247 where r_z and q_z are constrained such that $\rho_{z,t} \geq 0$ for all reasonable δ_t within the study
 248 area. We note that alternative link functions, such as the logit link, may be utilized
 249 when specifying ρ_z as a function of covariates (see *Example: grey seal movement in the*
 250 *North Sea*).

251 Biased, correlated movements

252 Additional structure can describe biased movement behavior states that exhibit
 253 correlations between successive movement directions (Figure 1b):

$$254 \quad [\phi_t | \phi_{t-1}, z_t = i] \sim \text{wCauchy}(\lambda_{i,t}, \rho_i)$$

255 with expected movement direction

$$256 \quad \lambda_{z,t} = \eta_z \phi_{t-1} + (1 - \eta_z) \mu_{z,t}$$

257 where ϕ_0 is the (latent) movement direction prior to time step $t = 1$. Now the expected
 258 movement direction ($\lambda_{z,t}$) is a weighted average of the strength of bias in the direction
 259 of the current center of attraction ($\mu_{z,t}$) and the previous movement direction (ϕ_{t-1}) for
 260 $0 \leq \eta_z \leq 1$. If $\eta_z = 0$, then movement reverts to a standard biased random walk. If

261 $\eta_z = 1$, then movement becomes an unbiased correlated random walk. If $\rho_z = 0$, then
 262 movement is a simple (i.e., unbiased and uncorrelated) random walk. If $\rho_z = 1$, then
 263 movement is biased and deterministic (Barton et al. 2009). Because $\lambda_{z,t}$ is wrapped on
 264 the unit circle, we note that care must be taken in calculating $\lambda_{z,t}$ whenever

$$265 \quad |\phi_{t-1} - \mu_{z,t}| > \pi.$$

266 Exploratory movement states

267 By specifying ρ_z as a function of distance, the model allows unbiased movements when
 268 an individual is in close proximity to a center of attraction. However, “exploratory”
 269 states may include unbiased movements that are not associated with any center of
 270 attraction. The set of Z movement behavior states can therefore be extended to include
 271 c center of attraction and h exploratory movement states, such that $Z = c + h$. Such
 272 exploratory states can be easily added within the above framework:

$$273 \quad \rho_{z,t} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } z \text{ is an exploratory state} \\ \tanh(r_z \delta_t) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

274 Exploratory movements may be unbiased, but they can often exhibit directional
 275 persistence (i.e., autocorrelation in movement direction). To include correlated
 276 exploratory states within the biased random walk model,

$$277 \quad [\phi_t | \phi_{t-1}, z_t = i] \sim \text{wCauchy}(\lambda_{i,t}, \rho_{i,t})$$

$$278 \quad \lambda_{z,t} = \begin{cases} \phi_{t-1} & \text{if } z \text{ is an exploratory state} \\ \mu_{z,t} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$279 \quad \rho_{z,t} = \begin{cases} \nu_z & \text{if } z \text{ is an exploratory state} \\ \tanh(r_z \delta_t) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

280 where $0 \leq \nu_z < 1$ is the strength of directional persistence. For a biased correlated
 281 random walk with correlated exploratory states (Figure 1c):

282 $[\phi_t | \phi_{t-1}, z_t = i] \sim \text{wCauchy}(\lambda_{i,t}, \rho_{i,t})$

283 $\lambda_{z,t} = \begin{cases} \phi_{t-1} & \text{if } z \text{ is an exploratory state} \\ \eta_z \phi_{t-1} + (1 - \eta_z) \mu_{z,t} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

284 and

285 $\rho_{z,t} = \begin{cases} \nu_z & \text{if } z \text{ is an exploratory state} \\ \tanh(r_z \delta_t) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

286 Environmental covariates and alternative parameterizations

287 Animal movement is often heavily influenced by environmental factors, such as
 288 landscape (e.g., slope or vegetation cover) or seascape (e.g., currents or temperature)
 289 conditions. These factors may be incorporated within the parameters above using
 290 standard link functions. For example, if a set of k covariates was identified as potential
 291 predictors for step length, then one could assume:

292 $[s_t | z_t = i] \sim \text{Weibull}(a_{i,t}, b_{i,t})$

293 $\log(a_{z,t}) = \alpha_{z,0} + \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_{z,j} \omega_{t,j}$

294 $\log(b_{z,t}) = \beta_{z,0} + \sum_{j=1}^k \beta_{z,j} \omega_{t,j}$

295 where $\omega_{t,j}$ is the value for linear predictor j at time step t . Similarly, covariates could
 296 also be incorporated into strengths of attraction (\mathbf{r} and \mathbf{q}), state transition probabilities
 297 ($\boldsymbol{\psi}$), or any other parameters in the model. This includes the use of habitat-level
 298 covariates on (X_t, Y_t) for predicting movements during missing or unobserved time
 299 steps (see *Example: grey seal movement in the North Sea*). Such predicted coordinates
 300 allow the overall movement path to reflect specific spatial features (e.g., lakes or
 301 mountains) of relevance to the species of interest.

302 Step length may also be a function of distance to the current center of attraction.
 303 One could envisage longer step lengths (e.g., due to increased velocity or strength of
 304 bias) when far away from the current center of attraction. Such effects could be
 305 incorporated by specifying

$$306 \quad a_{z,t} = \gamma_z \tanh(\kappa_z \delta_t),$$

307 where the scale parameter of the Weibull distribution ($a_{z,t}$) is now a function of δ_t and
 308 a (state-dependent) scaling parameter (κ_z). When the animal is near the center of
 309 attraction, $a_{z,t}$ is closer to zero, and the step lengths are shorter. If the animal is far
 310 from the current center of attraction, $a_{z,t}$ will approach the (state-dependent) scale
 311 parameter asymptote γ_z . Alternative approaches could include change-points on the
 312 step length parameters:

$$313 \quad a_{z,t} = \begin{cases} a_{z,1} & \text{if } \delta_t \in [0, d_{z,1}) \\ a_{z,2} & \text{if } \delta_t \in [d_{z,1}, d_{z,2}) \\ \vdots & \\ a_{z,k} & \text{if } \delta_t \in [d_{z,k-1}, d_{z,k}) \end{cases},$$

314 where $d_{z,l}$ is the threshold distance for change-point l of center of attraction state z (see
 315 *Example: grey seal movement in the North Sea*).

316 Much of the biological interest in multi-state movement models lies in the
 317 specification of behavioral state transition probabilities. Depending on the biological
 318 questions of interest, it may often be advantageous to reparameterize the state transition
 319 probability matrix. For example, with a migratory species it may be desirable to restrict
 320 state transitions until the individual is in the vicinity of the current center of attraction
 321 (i.e., so that "en-route" switches are avoided). A simple reparameterization allows such
 322 behaviors to be more easily investigated:

323
$$\psi = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 & (1-\alpha_1)\beta_{1,2} & \dots & (1-\alpha_1)\beta_{1,c} \\ (1-\alpha_2)\beta_{2,1} & \alpha_2 & & (1-\alpha_2)\beta_{2,c} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ (1-\alpha_c)\beta_{c,1} & (1-\alpha_c)\beta_{c,2} & \dots & \alpha_c \end{bmatrix}$$

324 where $\alpha_i = \Pr(z_t = i | z_{t-1} = i)$, $\beta_{k,i} = \Pr(z_t = i | z_{t-1} = k, k \neq i)$, and $\sum_{i \neq k}^c \beta_{k,i} = 1$ for $k =$
 325 $1, 2, \dots, c$. Using logit-linear intercept (ζ_z) and slope (ξ_z) parameters, state transitions
 326 could incorporate the effects of distance:

327
$$\text{logit}(\alpha_{z,t}) = \zeta_z + \xi_z \delta_t$$

328 whereby individuals could be more likely to remain in the current movement state until
 329 they are in close proximity to the associated center of attraction. More complicated
 330 covariate structures (e.g., the amount of time in the current state) or other
 331 reparameterizations could be incorporated in a similar fashion.

332 *State-space formulation*

333 Even in well-designed studies, there will typically be some degree of measurement error
 334 in spatio-temporal animal location data. Environmental conditions may affect the
 335 timing and location of fixes, as may animal behavior (e.g., diving or burrowing species).
 336 For reliable inference, these irregularities must be accounted for when applying the
 337 mechanistic movement models described above. To account for spatial error and
 338 temporal irregularity, we propose a continuous-time observation model to accompany
 339 our discrete-time movement process model in a state-space formulation.

340 In the movement process model, we assume switches between behavioral states
 341 can occur at regular time intervals of equal length. The switching interval length must
 342 therefore be chosen at a temporal resolution of relevance to the species and conditions
 343 of interest. Similar to Jonsen et al. (2005), we assume that individuals travel in a
 344 straight line between times $t-1$ and t . The observed locations are labeled according to

345 the regular time interval into which they fall: we write $(x_{t,i}, y_{t,i})$ for the i th observation
 346 between time $t-1$ and t , for $i = 1, \dots, n_t$. These are related to the regular locations
 347 (X_t, Y_t) via:

$$348 \quad x_{t,i} = (1 - j_{t,i})X_{t-1} + j_{t,i}X_t + \varepsilon_{x_{t,i}}$$

$$349 \quad y_{t,i} = (1 - j_{t,i})Y_{t-1} + j_{t,i}Y_t + \varepsilon_{y_{t,i}}$$

350 with error terms

$$351 \quad \varepsilon_{x_{t,i}} \sim N(0, \sigma_x^2)$$

$$352 \quad \varepsilon_{y_{t,i}} \sim N(0, \sigma_y^2)$$

353 where $j_{t,i} \in [0,1)$ is the proportion of the time interval between locations (X_{t-1}, Y_{t-1}) and
 354 (X_t, Y_t) at which the i th observation between times $t-1$ and t was obtained. Time
 355 intervals with no observations (i.e., $n_t = 0$) do not contribute to the observation model
 356 likelihood. In some applications (e.g., radio-telemetry triangulation or Argos satellite
 357 locations), the measurement errors are known to have more frequent large outliers than
 358 would occur under a normal distribution; in this case, a heavier-tailed error distribution
 359 could be employed (e.g., t -distribution) that allows additional non-central or scale
 360 parameters (e.g., Jonsen et al. 2005).

361 EXAMPLE: GREY SEAL MOVEMENT IN THE NORTH SEA

362 *Background*

363 We demonstrate the application of our model using hybrid-GPS transmitter data
 364 collected from grey seals (*Halichoerus grypus*) in the North Sea. Fastloc™ GPS
 365 transmitter (Wildtrack Telemetry Systems, Leeds, UK) tags were deployed in April
 366 2008 and attempted to obtain a location every 30 minutes until battery failure in August
 367 or September 2008. Our multi-state random walk model was initially deemed

368 appropriate for grey seals because we suspected they could display oriented movements
369 among haul-out colonies and foraging patches. However, a combination of biological
370 and technological issues necessitated use of the state-space model described above: 1)
371 positions are only attainable when an individual surfaces, hence observations were
372 obtained at irregular time intervals; and 2) following any “dry” period where a
373 transmitter remained out of water for more than 10 minutes, no new fixes could be
374 obtained until the transmitter returned to water continuously for 40 seconds. In other
375 words, there were frequent missing data due to an inability to obtain locations while an
376 individual was either hauled out or underwater.

377 We fitted a multi-state random walk movement model to locations from a single
378 grey seal (Figure 2). The observed data consisted of 1045 locations irregularly spaced
379 in time between 9 April and 13 August 2008. Based on the scale of movements of grey
380 seals (McConnell et al. 1999) and the frequency of observations, we specified
381 $T = 1515$ regular switching intervals of 120min between times $t - 1$ and time t for
382 $t = 1, \dots, T$. Our selection of 120min intervals reflects a trade-off between
383 computational efficiency, the temporal resolution of the data, and an acceptable
384 temporal resolution for inference about grey seal movement behavior. The first of these
385 120min intervals began at deployment on 9 April, and the last interval ended
386 immediately after the final observed location on 13 August.

387 *Movement model specification*

388 For demonstrative purposes, we specify a simplified model of grey seal movement by
389 limiting the number of center of attraction ($c = 3$) and exploratory ($h = 2$) states. Our
390 most general first-order Markov movement process model therefore consisted of $Z = 5$
391 potential states, including state-dependence on both movement direction and step length
392 parameters:

393 $[\phi_t | \phi_{t-1}, z_t = i] \sim \text{wCauchy}(\lambda_{i,t}, \rho_{i,t})$

394 $\lambda_{z,t} = \begin{cases} \eta_z \phi_{t-1} + (1 - \eta_z) \mu_{z,t} & \text{if } z \leq c \\ \phi_{t-1} & \text{if } z > c \end{cases}$

395 $\rho_{z,t} = \begin{cases} \text{logit}^{-1}(m_z + r_z \delta_t + q_z \delta_t^2) & \text{if } z \leq c \\ \nu_z & \text{if } z > c \end{cases}$

396 $[s_t | z_t = i] \sim \text{Weibull}(a_{i,t}, b_{i,t})$

397 $a_{z,t} = \begin{cases} a_{z,1} [1 - \mathbf{I}_{[0,d_z]}(\delta_t)] + a_{z,2} \mathbf{I}_{[0,d_z]}(\delta_t) & \text{if } z \leq c \\ a_z & \text{if } z > c \end{cases}$

398 $b_{z,t} = \begin{cases} b_{z,1} [1 - \mathbf{I}_{[0,d_z]}(\delta_t)] + b_{z,2} \mathbf{I}_{[0,d_z]}(\delta_t) & \text{if } z \leq c \\ b_z & \text{if } z > c \end{cases}$

399 $[z_t | z_{t-1} = k] \sim \text{Categorical}(\psi_{k,1}, \dots, \psi_{k,5})$

400 where $k = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$, m_z is an intercept term on the logit scale, $0 \leq \rho_{z,t} < 1$, δ_t is the
 401 (scaled) Euclidean distance between the predicted location (X_{t-1}, Y_{t-1}) and center of
 402 attraction (X_z^*, Y_z^*) at time t , and $\mathbf{I}_{[0,d_z]}(\delta_t)$ is an indicator function for $\delta_t \in [0, d_z)$. We
 403 chose to fit our state-space model using Bayesian analysis methods because of the
 404 general complexity of the model and the ease by which these methods can
 405 accommodate prior information, latent state variables, and missing data (Ellison 2004,
 406 King et al. 2009). Posterior model probabilities also provide a straightforward means
 407 for addressing model selection uncertainty (see *Model selection and multi-model*
 408 *inference*).

409 For our Bayesian analysis, we specified uninformative prior distributions for
 410 most of the parameters (Table 1). Based on previous studies of grey seal movements
 411 (McConnell et al. 1999), we specified a (conservative) maximum sustainable speed of 2

412 meters per second (such that $s_t \leq 14.4$ km). For the UTM coordinates of the centers of
413 attraction (X_z^*, Y_z^*) , we specified joint discrete uniform priors over the coordinates of
414 the predicted locations (X_t, Y_t) . This prior specification therefore assumes the centers
415 of attraction are located on the predicted movement path. We constrained state
416 assignments for time steps corresponding to (X_z^*, Y_z^*) for each center of attraction, such
417 that $z_t = k$ if $(X_k^*, Y_k^*) = (X_t, Y_t)$ for $k = 1, \dots, c$. For the coordinates of the initial
418 location (X_0, Y_0) , we specified a joint uniform prior over the region (A) defined by the
419 North Sea and coastline of Great Britain. We also constrained predicted locations
420 (X_t, Y_t) to be within A for $t = 1, \dots, T$ (i.e., inland grey seal locations were prohibited *a*
421 *priori*).

422 *Model selection and multi-model inference*

423 We used a reversible jump Markov chain Monte Carlo (RJMCMC) algorithm (Green
424 1995) to fit the model and simultaneously investigate various (state-specific)
425 parameterizations for the strength of bias towards any centers of attraction and the
426 correlations between successive movements (see *Appendix B*). These parameterizations
427 included models with linear bias $[\rho_{z,t} = \text{logit}^{-1}(m_z + r_z \delta_t)]$ and quadratic bias
428 $[\rho_{z,t} = \text{logit}^{-1}(m_z + r_z \delta_t + q_z \delta_t^2)]$ towards centers of attraction for $z = 1, 2, 3$. We also
429 investigated models with no correlation in movement direction between successive time
430 steps when in a center of attraction state ($\eta_z = 0$ for $z = 1, 2, 3$) or an exploratory state
431 ($\nu_z = 0$ for $z = 4, 5$).

432 These different parameterizations yielded 256 potential models for evaluation
433 via posterior model probabilities. For all models, we assumed equal prior model
434 probabilities. For all parameters without standard full conditional posterior

435 distributions, random walk Metropolis-Hastings updates were used (e.g., Brooks 1998,
436 Givens and Hoeting 2005). After initial pilot tuning and burn-in, we produced a single
437 MCMC chain of five million iterations for calculating posterior summaries and model
438 probabilities. After thinning by 100 iterations to reduce memory requirements, Monte
439 Carlo estimates (including model-averaged estimates) were obtained for each of the
440 parameters from this single Markov chain. The RJMCMC algorithm was written in the
441 C programming language (Kernighan and Ritchie 1988), with pre- and post-processing
442 performed in R via the .C Interface (R Development Core Team 2009).

443 *Example results and discussion*

444 Posterior model probabilities (Table 2) and model-averaged parameter summaries
445 (Table 3) indicate biased movements towards all three centers of attraction. The
446 estimated coordinates of the centers of attraction correspond to the Farne Islands haul-
447 out site, the Abertay haul-out site, and the Dogger Bank foraging site (Figure 3,
448 *Appendix C*), and the strengths of bias to these three sites differed as a function of
449 distance (Figure 4). The Abertay haul-out site maintained a strong and consistent bias
450 up to 350km. Both the Farne Islands haul-out and Dogger Bank foraging sites exhibited
451 a decreasing strength of bias curve, but we found little evidence of a quadratic effect of
452 distance (Tables 2, 3). Biased movements continued at greater distances ($> 350\text{km}$) and
453 declined less rapidly from the Dogger Bank foraging site than from the Farne Islands
454 haul-out site. These patterns of directed movement as a function of distance could be
455 indicative of the seal “honing in” on these targets, but ocean currents are also likely to
456 be influencing the timing and direction of these movements (see Gaspar et al. 2006).

457 Model-averaged posterior summaries indicated a strong tendency for the seal to
458 remain in its current movement state (Table 3), with switches between center of
459 attraction states rarely occurring until the seal had reached the vicinity of the current

460 center of attraction (Figure 3). We found very little evidence of correlated movements
461 when in a center of attraction state, with marginal posterior parameter probabilities of
462 0.01, 0.00, and 0.00 for η_1 , η_2 , and η_3 , respectively. We found little evidence for
463 directional persistence during the exploratory states not associated with any center of
464 attraction (Table 3), with marginal posterior parameter probabilities of 0.16 for ν_4 and
465 0.01 for ν_5 . As expected, uncertainty in the coordinates of predicted locations
466 (X_t, Y_t) was greatest during time steps with missing data, most notably during extended
467 “dry” haul-out periods and foraging at Dogger Bank (Figure 3b).

468 Based on posterior summaries for the step length and change-point parameters,
469 we found strong evidence of shorter step lengths within 5km of the three centers of
470 attraction (Table 3). For the Farne Islands and Abertay sites, the predicted locations in
471 close proximity to these centers of attraction suggest restricted movement in the vicinity
472 of the haul-out colonies. For the Dogger Bank site, the predicted locations in the
473 vicinity suggest area-restricted searches during foraging (Figure 3). These findings are
474 consistent with expected haul-out and foraging movement behaviors of grey seals
475 (McConnell et al. 1999). Although neither of the exploratory states exhibited strong
476 directional persistence, parameter estimates indicated relatively longer step lengths (i.e.,
477 higher speed) for one of these exploratory states (Table 3). This suggests transitory or
478 searching movements during the “high-speed” exploratory state ($z = 4$), but the “low-
479 speed” exploratory state ($z = 5$) could be indicative of foraging or resting at sea.

480 Based on posterior state assignments, the mean proportion of time (95% highest
481 posterior density interval) between 9 April and 13 August 2008 that the seal spent in
482 each state was 0.39 (0.37, 0.41) for the Dogger Bank foraging state, 0.27 (0.26, 0.29)
483 for the Abertay haul-out state, 0.17 (0.16, 0.19) for the Farne Islands haul-out state, 0.12
484 (0.10, 0.13) for the low-speed exploratory state, and 0.05 (0.03, 0.06) for the high-speed

485 exploratory state. Due to tortuosity in the movement path, there was some uncertainty
486 in state assignments for transitory movements among centers of attraction. We suspect
487 these indirect paths are related to environmental cues or ocean currents. There was also
488 some state assignment uncertainty for movements in the vicinity of the Abertay and
489 Dogger Bank centers of attraction. This could be attributable to a potential foraging
490 area in the offshore sandbanks near the Abertay haul-out site, responses to prey
491 movement in the Dogger Bank foraging area, and missing location data during “dry” or
492 prolonged diving periods. Further model structure, including additional movement
493 behavior states or environmental covariates, may be required to better explain these
494 movements.

495 Given the reliability of locations using hybrid-GPS transmitters, we were not
496 particularly concerned about spatio-temporal measurement error for these data. We
497 were far more concerned about irregularly-observed and missing data because we were
498 unable to obtain locations while the seal was hauled out or underwater. Error terms (in
499 meters) were relatively small, with posterior medians for $\hat{\sigma}_x = 562$ (95% HPDI: 511 -
500 620) and for $\hat{\sigma}_y = 255$ (95% HPDI: 233 - 276). Similar to Patterson et al. (2010), the
501 larger value for σ_x reflects the prevalence of east-west movements between haul-out
502 and foraging sites. There were several instances where small, but non-negligible,
503 differences were found between observed and predicted locations (Figure 3a), but we
504 believe these instances are more likely attributable to some deficiencies in the model
505 than to location measurement error.

506 Previous studies on individual seal movement (Jonsen et al. 2005, Johnson et al.
507 2008, Breed et al. 2009, Patterson et al. 2010) limited models to simple and correlated
508 random walks among haul-out and foraging areas. Based on posterior estimates and
509 probabilities for simple (0% of posterior model probabilities), correlated (0%), biased

510 (82%), and both biased and correlated (18%) random walk mixture models, we found
511 overwhelming evidence that including bias (or drift) towards centers of attraction better
512 explained seal movement than simple or correlated random walks. This result strongly
513 supports the recognized ability of grey seals to rely on navigational capabilities for
514 directed (and not simply correlated) movement among haul-out colonies and foraging
515 patches.

516 Correlations among parameters and the large number of latent variables made
517 the development of a model fitting algorithm a computational challenge. To help
518 diagnose convergence, we examined a series of additional chains with overdispersed
519 initial values. With poor starting values for (X_z^*, Y_z^*) and (X_t, Y_t) , we found the
520 algorithm could diverge or get caught in local maxima. However, we achieved similar
521 results for chains covering a range of reasonable starting values. Even with reasonable
522 starting values, it required about five million iterations before chains appeared to
523 converge. The centers of attraction do not necessarily need to be located on the
524 predicted movement path, but we found mixing and performance were greatly improved
525 by this prior specification for the coordinates of the centers of attraction (X_z^*, Y_z^*) . We
526 also believe it is reasonable to assume that centers of attraction are visited (and hence
527 located along the predicted path).

528 At the expense of some biological realism, we chose to keep this example
529 relatively simple to demonstrate the application of this methodology to a general
530 audience. If our intended audience were limited to marine mammalogists, we would
531 have incorporated additional model complexity and prior information to better reflect
532 the biology of grey seals. Similar to Johnson et al. (2008), we could have included an
533 additional “dry” state for movement during periods when the seal was (presumably) out
534 of water (e.g., smaller step lengths). Alternatively, landscape covariates could have

535 been used for specifying "haul-out" movement states when the seal was located on land.
536 We also could have constrained transition probabilities to make switches between states
537 less likely until the seal reached the vicinity of the current center of attraction. Not only
538 would refinements such as these add biological realism, but they would likely improve
539 mixing and convergence of the RJMCMC algorithm.

540 DISCUSSION

541 With the development of an intuitive framework for modeling animal movement,
542 ecologists may better appreciate the applicability of mechanistic, inferential movement
543 models to a wide variety of species and conditions. We have proposed a discrete-time,
544 continuous-space, and discrete-state conceptualization of the individual animal
545 movement process to facilitate the biological interpretation of distinct movement
546 behaviors and associated parameters. We believe its mathematical simplicity and focus
547 on ecology can make the application of bespoke movement models more
548 straightforward for non-statisticians. This "tool-box" of model components allows
549 researchers to construct custom-built mechanistic movement models for the species of
550 interest, while providing a means to compare weights of evidence in support of specific
551 hypotheses about different movement behaviors.

552 Perhaps most appealing is the ease with which new components can be added
553 to the nested model-building tool-box. While more components can lead to a large
554 number of potential models to choose from, the framework can accommodate the
555 additional model selection uncertainty in a straightforward quantitative manner. As
556 demonstrated in our grey seal example, this approach enabled the simultaneous
557 investigation of numerous hypotheses about seal movement, including the use of
558 navigation and time allocations to different movement behavior states. To our

559 knowledge, this is the first methodology utilizing model weights for selection and multi-
560 model inference in the mechanistic movement model literature.

561 Although our main goal has been to present this suite of model-building tools,
562 a serious study of animal movement should include some additional assessments of
563 goodness of fit. Morales et al. (2004) and Dalziel et al. (2010) briefly explore this topic,
564 including the use of posterior predictive checks and probes to test whether the fitted
565 models are consistent with emergent properties of the movement process (e.g.,
566 autocorrelation patterns in displacements and habitat use). However, an assessment of
567 absolute goodness of fit remains a daunting task for mechanistic movement models. In
568 the absence of classical tests of goodness of fit, it is particularly important that the
569 model set be selected with care utilizing the best biological information available for
570 reliable inference. Conditional on this candidate model set, model comparisons (e.g.,
571 based on posterior model probabilities or other model selection criteria) can provide
572 some assessment of the relative goodness of fit.

573 There remain many potential extensions to the modeling framework beyond
574 those already identified. In the grey seal example, we included two exploratory
575 movement states not associated with any center of attraction, but additional spatially-
576 unassociated states that differ in their movement properties (and associated state
577 parameters) may be incorporated (*sensu* Morales et al. 2004, Jonsen et al. 2005, Breed
578 et al. 2009). These additional states could be used to further differentiate among
579 exploratory movements (e.g., dispersal or search strategies) that have unique
580 distributions for step length and the degree of correlation between successive
581 movements.

582 We reiterate that centers of attraction do not necessarily refer to a single location
583 in space. Rather, they can refer to any entity to which animals move in response to.

584 This includes immobile entities such as habitat patches, but also mobile entities such as
585 conspecifics or prey. Any given entity (or group of entities) could therefore be used to
586 define a different behavior state for movement towards, away from, or within each
587 entity. Potential centers of attraction can also be dynamically incorporated within an
588 individual's portfolio as its habitat is explored, thus allowing for explicit modeling of
589 the effects of past experience on movement. Instead of centers of attraction, centers of
590 repulsion (where $-1 < \rho_z \leq 0$) may be particularly useful for demonstrating avoidance
591 behaviors related to encounters with conspecifics, predators, or undesirable habitats.

592 From a behavioral ecology perspective, perhaps most promising is the potential
593 for modeling movement state transition probabilities. By incorporating physiological or
594 environmental covariate information into the framework, one can investigate hypotheses
595 about the timing and motivations behind various movement behaviors as individuals
596 respond to changes in the internal and external environment (Morales et al. 2010).
597 Biotelemetry data (e.g., metabolic rate) or time of year (e.g., breeding season) are
598 among many factors that may help explain changes in movement behavior. Instead of
599 relying solely on trajectories, ancillary data may also be helpful in the assignment of
600 movement states. For example, additional landscape or seascape information may have
601 better explained the indirect movements between the two haul-out colonies in our grey
602 seal analysis. Recent advances, such as animal-borne accelerometers (Wilson et al.
603 2008, Holland et al. 2009, Payne et al. 2010), will likely provide additional ways to
604 distinguish among different types of movement (e.g., predator hunting and feeding).
605 There are also many ways by which memory can be incorporated into movements and
606 state transitions. Here we only explored two such mechanisms for memory, including
607 Markov processes for state transitions and the existence of spatial locations that are
608 committed to memory because they are (presumably) associated with specific goals.

609 The locations of centers of attraction are typically assumed to be known based
610 on prior knowledge or qualitative assessments of the data. Indeed, one could relatively
611 easily predict the coordinates of the three centers of attraction in our grey seal example
612 using only the naked eye or previous studies. However, we envision more complicated
613 movement paths where it is very difficult to identify or differentiate between potential
614 centers. We believe a quantitative means for estimating the location of centers and their
615 associated strengths of attraction (or repulsion), such as that proposed here, improves
616 our ability to extract reliable information from novel or more complex movement paths.

617 For simplicity, we chose to specify three centers of attraction in our grey seal
618 example. Although we found strong evidence of bias towards all three of these centers,
619 if any center z receives little support for bias (e.g., $\rho_{z,t} \approx 0$ for all δ_t), alternative models
620 removing such centers should be explored because state z essentially becomes an
621 uncorrelated exploratory state. This may have undesirable consequences, including
622 confounded exploratory states and poor MCMC mixing. Ideally, the model could be
623 extended to accommodate an unknown number of centers and reduce any need for ad-
624 hoc assessments of the appropriate number of centers. This would require an additional
625 parameter for the number of centers and (state-specific) movement parameters for each
626 potential center. Similar to the multi-model inference procedure used here, a reversible
627 jump MCMC algorithm could be utilized to estimate the number of centers of attraction.
628 This potential extension constitutes the focus of current research.

629 Additional information or structural complexity could also be specified in the
630 observation process of the state-space model. For example, Jonsen et al. (2005)
631 specified informative priors for measurement error parameters based on previously
632 published records of location estimation error for Argos-tagged grey seals. State-
633 dependent error or correlation terms (e.g., utilizing a multivariate normal error

634 distribution) could also be incorporated. Although a great deal of previous effort in the
635 analysis of animal location data has focused on the observation process, we expect
636 greater emphasis on the movement process as the quality of location data continue to
637 improve (e.g., with advances in GPS technology).

638 Although other approaches (e.g., Blackwell 2003, Jonsen et al. 2005, Johnson et
639 al. 2008) could potentially be extended to include the various types of movement
640 accommodated by our multi-state model, we chose to extend the basic methodology of
641 Morales et al. (2004) because of its intuitive appeal to ecologists and wildlife
642 professionals. The discrete-time, continuous-space approach of Jonsen et al. (2005) can
643 accommodate correlated and uncorrelated exploratory movements, but it does not
644 include biased or area-restricted movements related to specific locations or habitats. An
645 additional limitation of the correlated random walk approach of Jonsen et al. (2005) is a
646 lack of independence between direction and step length, resulting in higher-order auto-
647 correlations than found in standard correlated random walks. Our approach assumes
648 independence between direction and step length for each movement behavior state, but
649 a joint distribution including correlations could potentially be incorporated if deemed
650 appropriate (e.g., specifying shorter step lengths when movement is away from the
651 current center of attraction).

652 The continuous-time, continuous-space approaches of Blackwell (2003) and
653 Johnson et al. (2008) do allow correlated movements and “drift” that can (potentially)
654 be related to specific locations (*sensu* Kendall 1974, Dunn and Gipson 1977).
655 However, Blackwell (2003) assumes movement behavior states are known and Johnson
656 et al. (2008) only include a single state with known covariates, hence neither approach
657 includes an estimation framework for both movement state and switching behavior.
658 Although satisfying from a mathematical and theoretical perspective, we believe the

659 often difficult interpretation of continuous-time movement parameters (e.g., those
660 related to Ornstein-Uhlenbeck and other diffusion processes) can in practice be
661 discouraging to applied ecologists wishing to use or extend these methods. This may
662 change as ecologists become more familiar with the principles of mechanistic
663 movement models and computer software makes these approaches more accessible.

664 Unlike continuous-time movement process models, the primary disadvantage of
665 a discrete-time approach is that the time scale between state transitions must be chosen
666 based on the biology of the species and the frequency of observations. For any
667 continuous- or discrete-time approach to be useful, the temporal resolution of the
668 observed data must be relevant to the specific movement behaviors of interest. The
669 timing and frequency of observations must therefore be carefully considered when
670 designing telemetry devices and data collection schemes.

671 To encourage the broader application of movement models in ecology, user-
672 friendly software for the analysis of animal location data is needed. Ovaskainen et al
673 (2008) and Johnson et al. (2008) provided important first steps in accessible software by
674 creating DISPERSE and the R package CRAWL to perform the complicated
675 computations the models respectively require. Despite its relative mathematical
676 simplicity, the large number of parameters and latent variables inherent to our modeling
677 framework also makes implementation a computational challenge. We therefore
678 provide code for the full state-space formulation of our model (see *Supplement*) and are
679 currently developing a software package for general use by practitioners (Milazzo et al.
680 in prep.).

681 By making individual movement models more accessible and readily
682 interpretable to ecologists, we ultimately hope progress can be made towards linking
683 animal movement and population dynamics at the interface of behavioral, population,

684 and landscape ecology (Morales et al. 2010). Although the mechanistic links between
685 animal movement and population dynamics are theoretically understood, fitting
686 population-level models to data from many individuals will pose considerable
687 mathematical and computational challenges. Scaling individual movement models up
688 to population-level processes therefore remains a very promising avenue for future
689 research.

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854 APPENDIX A

855 Strength of bias for the wrapped Cauchy distribution as a function of distance to a
856 center of attraction (Ecological Archives XXXX-XXX-A1).

857 APPENDIX B

858 Reversible jump Markov chain Monte Carlo algorithm for the multi-state random walk
859 model (Ecological Archives XXXX-XXX-A2).

860 APPENDIX C

861 HTML animation of Figure 3 (Ecological Archives XXXX-XXX-A3).

862 SUPPLEMENT

863 Computer code and data for implementing the reversible jump Markov chain Monte
864 Carlo algorithm for the multi-state random walk model (Ecological Archives XXXX-
865 XXX-A4).

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878 Table 1. Parameter definitions and (uninformative) prior specifications for a Bayesian
 879 analysis of grey seal location data using the multi-state random walk movement model.

Parameter	Description	Prior distribution
m_z	Intercept term for the strength of bias as a function of distance to center of attraction $z = 1,2,3$.	$N(0, \tau^2)$
r_z	Linear term for the strength of bias as a function of distance to center of attraction $z = 1,2,3$.	$N(0, \tau^2)$
q_z	Quadratic term for the strength of bias as a function of distance to center of attraction $z = 1,2,3$.	$N(0, \tau^2)$
τ^2	Prior variance for m_z , r_z , and q_z .	$\Gamma^{-1}(3, 2)$
η_z	Movement direction correlation term for center of attraction $z = 1,2,3$.	$\text{Unif}(0, 1)$
ν_z	Movement direction correlation term for exploratory state $z = 4,5$.	$\text{Unif}(0, 1)$
ϕ_0	Direction (or bearing) of movement for initial time step $t = 0$.	$\text{Unif}(0, 2\pi)$
a_z	Scale parameter (m) of the Weibull distribution for step length of states $z = 1,2,3,4,5$.	$\text{Unif}(0, 14400)$
b_z	Shape parameter of the Weibull distribution for step length of states $z = 1,2,3,4,5$.	$\text{Unif}(0, 30)$
d_z	Change-point distance (m) for scale and shape parameters of the Weibull distribution for step length of center of attraction states $z = 1,2,3$.	$\text{Unif}(0, 400000)$
σ_x^2	Measurement error variance for easting coordinates of	$\Gamma^{-1}(10^{-3}, 10^{-3})$

	observed locations $(x_{t,i}, y_{t,i})$.	
σ_y^2	Measurement error variance for northing coordinates of observed locations $(x_{t,i}, y_{t,i})$.	$\Gamma^{-1}(10^{-3}, 10^{-3})$
$\psi_{[k,\cdot]}$	The k th row vector of the state transition probability matrix, with each element $(\psi_{k,i})$ corresponding to the switching probability from state k at time $t - 1$ to state i $= 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ at time t .	Dirichlet(1,1,1,1,1)

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882 Table 2. Posterior model probabilities (PMP) for strength of attraction (q_z) and
 883 correlation (η_z and ν_z) parameters for a grey seal in the North Sea. For each parameter,
 884 a '1' indicates presence in the model. The bottom row indicates the marginal posterior
 885 probabilities (MPP) for each parameter. Centers of attraction correspond to the Farne
 886 Islands haul-out site ($z = 1$), Abertay haul-out site ($z = 2$), and Dogger Bank foraging
 887 site ($z = 3$). Other states correspond to high-speed ($z = 4$) and low-speed ($z = 5$)
 888 exploratory states. Results are for models with a PMP of at least 0.02.

PMP	Model							
	q_1	q_2	q_3	η_1	η_2	η_3	ν_4	ν_5
0.17		1						
0.15		1	1					
0.13	1	1						
0.11	1	1	1					
0.07								
0.07			1					
0.06	1							
0.05	1		1					
0.03		1					1	
0.03		1	1				1	
0.02	1	1					1	
0.02	1	1	1				1	
MPP	0.43	0.68	0.48	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.01

889 Table 3. Model-averaged posterior summaries for strength of attraction
890 (r_z , q_z , m_z , and τ), correlation (η_z , ν_z , and ϕ_0), step length (a_z , b_z , and d_z),
891 observation error (σ_x and σ_y), and state transition probability ($\psi_{k,i}$) parameters.
892 Summaries include posterior medians and 95% highest posterior density intervals
893 (HPDI), conditional on the parameter being present in the model. Posterior means are
894 reported for state transition probabilities. Center of attraction states correspond to the
895 Farne Islands haul-out site ($z = 1$), Abertay haul-out site ($z = 2$), and Dogger Bank
896 foraging site ($z = 3$). The high-speed ($z = 4$) and low-speed ($z = 5$) exploratory states
897 are not associated with a center of attraction.

Parameter	Estimate	95% HPDI	
		Lower	Upper
<i>Strength of attraction parameters</i>			
m_1	3.08	2.31	3.91
m_2	4.54	3.85	5.37
m_3	3.49	2.86	4.21
r_1	-5.47	-8.35	-2.40
r_2	-0.70	-9.84	4.47
r_3	-3.41	-7.10	-1.77
q_1	-0.53	-4.90	4.13
q_2	3.40	-2.27	14.94
q_3	1.63	-1.39	5.01
τ	3.00	1.68	5.63

<u>Correlation parameters</u>			
η_1	0.00	0.00	0.01
η_2	0.00	0.00	0.00
η_3	0.00	0.00	0.01
ν_4	0.16	0.00	0.63
ν_5	0.01	0.00	0.04
ϕ_0	0.06	3.47	3.13
<u>Step length parameters</u>			
$a_{1,1}$	10497.04	10026.35	10990.62
$a_{2,1}$	11052.65	10631.82	11524.23
$a_{3,1}$	10859.38	10503.77	11194.52
a_4	5188.94	4755.68	5644.98
a_5	1902.68	1601.28	2230.24
$b_{1,1}$	6.12	4.78	7.73
$b_{2,1}$	6.17	5.33	7.43
$b_{3,1}$	6.16	5.38	7.04
b_4	19.96	8.51	30.00
b_5	4.40	2.09	11.85
d_1	1576.19	1152.39	2077.87
d_2	5583.09	3694.29	6552.00
d_3	1425.98	1016.81	2722.62
$a_{1,2}$	1908.44	1369.26	2529.56

$a_{2,2}$	2061.91	1760.39	2333.18
$a_{3,2}$	2480.05	1572.07	5811.18
$b_{1,2}$	4.93	1.26	18.97
$b_{2,2}$	24.70	16.45	30.00
$b_{3,2}$	2.77	1.04	5.83
<u>Observation error parameters</u>			
σ_x	562.32	510.92	619.68
σ_y	254.62	233.42	276.44
<u>State transition probability parameters</u>			
ψ_{11}	0.95	0.92	0.98
ψ_{12}	0.00	0.00	0.01
ψ_{13}	0.00	0.00	0.02
ψ_{14}	0.03	0.00	0.06
ψ_{15}	0.01	0.00	0.03
ψ_{21}	0.00	0.00	0.01
ψ_{22}	0.81	0.76	0.85
ψ_{23}	0.13	0.09	0.18
ψ_{24}	0.02	0.00	0.05
ψ_{25}	0.03	0.01	0.06
ψ_{31}	0.00	0.00	0.01
ψ_{32}	0.09	0.06	0.13
ψ_{33}	0.84	0.80	0.88

ψ_{34}	0.02	0.00	0.04
ψ_{35}	0.04	0.02	0.06
ψ_{41}	0.10	0.02	0.23
ψ_{42}	0.16	0.01	0.33
ψ_{43}	0.09	0.01	0.21
ψ_{44}	0.41	0.20	0.62
ψ_{45}	0.19	0.04	0.36
ψ_{51}	0.01	0.00	0.03
ψ_{52}	0.05	0.00	0.12
ψ_{53}	0.15	0.07	0.24
ψ_{54}	0.09	0.01	0.17
ψ_{55}	0.69	0.59	0.78

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910 Figure 1. Simulated time-series of animal location data using three centers of attraction
911 from multi-state (a) biased random walk; (b) biased correlated random walk; and (c)
912 biased correlated random walk with an exploratory state. The strength of bias towards
913 the corresponding center of attraction at each time step t , $z_t = 1,2,3$, is a function of the
914 Euclidean distance between the current location and the center of attraction.

915

916 Figure 2. Observed locations for a grey seal as it traveled clockwise among a foraging
917 area in the North Sea and haul-out sites on the eastern coast of Great Britain.

918

919 Figure 3. Predicted locations, movement behavior states, and coordinates of three
920 centers of attraction for a grey seal in the North Sea and eastern coast of Great Britain.
921 Estimated movement states for the predicted locations (solid colored circles) correspond
922 to the Farne Islands haul-out site (red), Abertay haul-out site (green), Dogger Bank
923 foraging site (blue), or spatially-unassociated high-speed (light blue) and low-speed
924 (magenta) exploratory states. Solid yellow circles indicate the estimated coordinates of
925 the three centers of attraction, and solid black circles indicate observed locations in (a).
926 Uncertainty in the estimated state (< 95% posterior probability) is indicated by smaller
927 hollow circles within predicted locations in (a). Uncertainty in estimated coordinates
928 are indicated by symmetric 95% credible intervals for predicted locations in (b). An
929 animated version of this figure is available online (see *Appendix C*).

930

931 Figure 4. Model-averaged strength of bias (ρ_z) to three centers of attraction as a
932 function of distance from a grey seal in the North Sea. Center of attraction states
933 correspond to the Farne Islands haul-out site (red), Abertay haul-out site (green), and
934 Dogger Bank foraging site (blue). Dashed lines indicate symmetric 95% credible

935 intervals. Lines terminate at the maximum distance at which the seal was assigned to
936 each respective center of attraction state.

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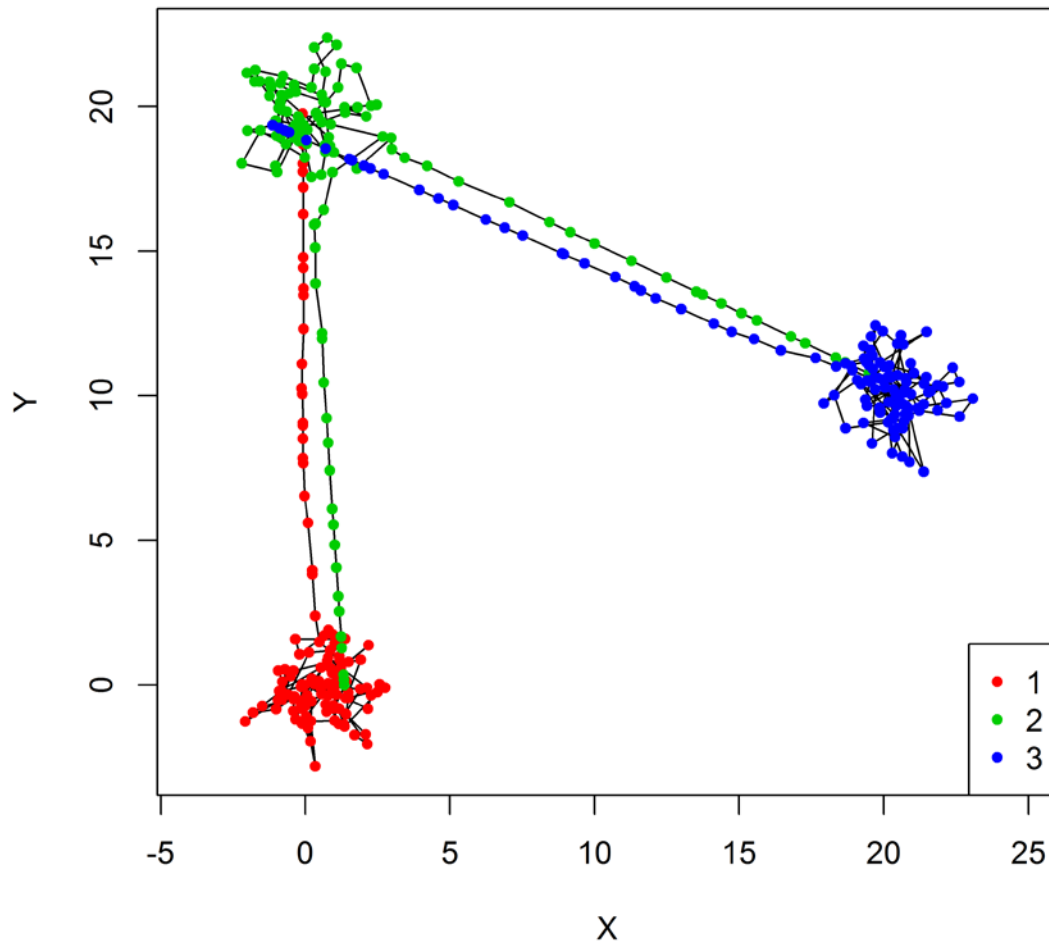
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960 Figure 1.

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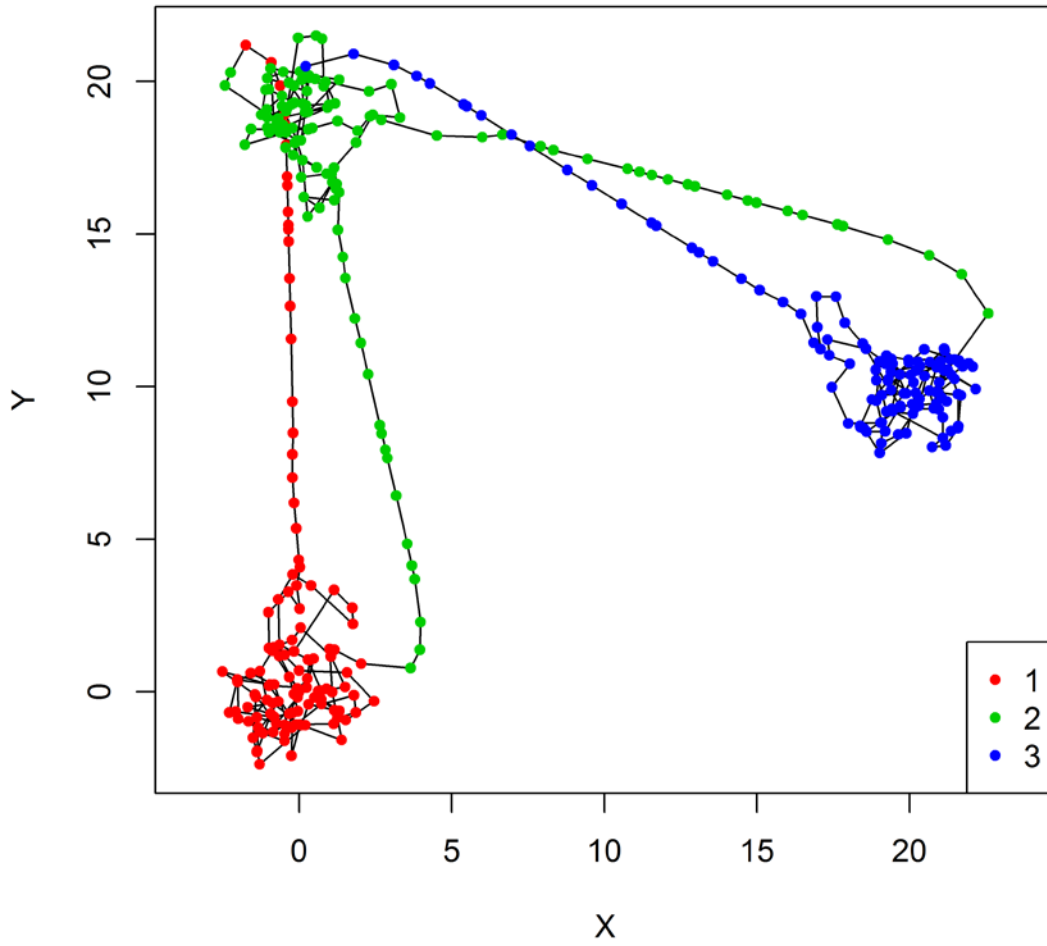
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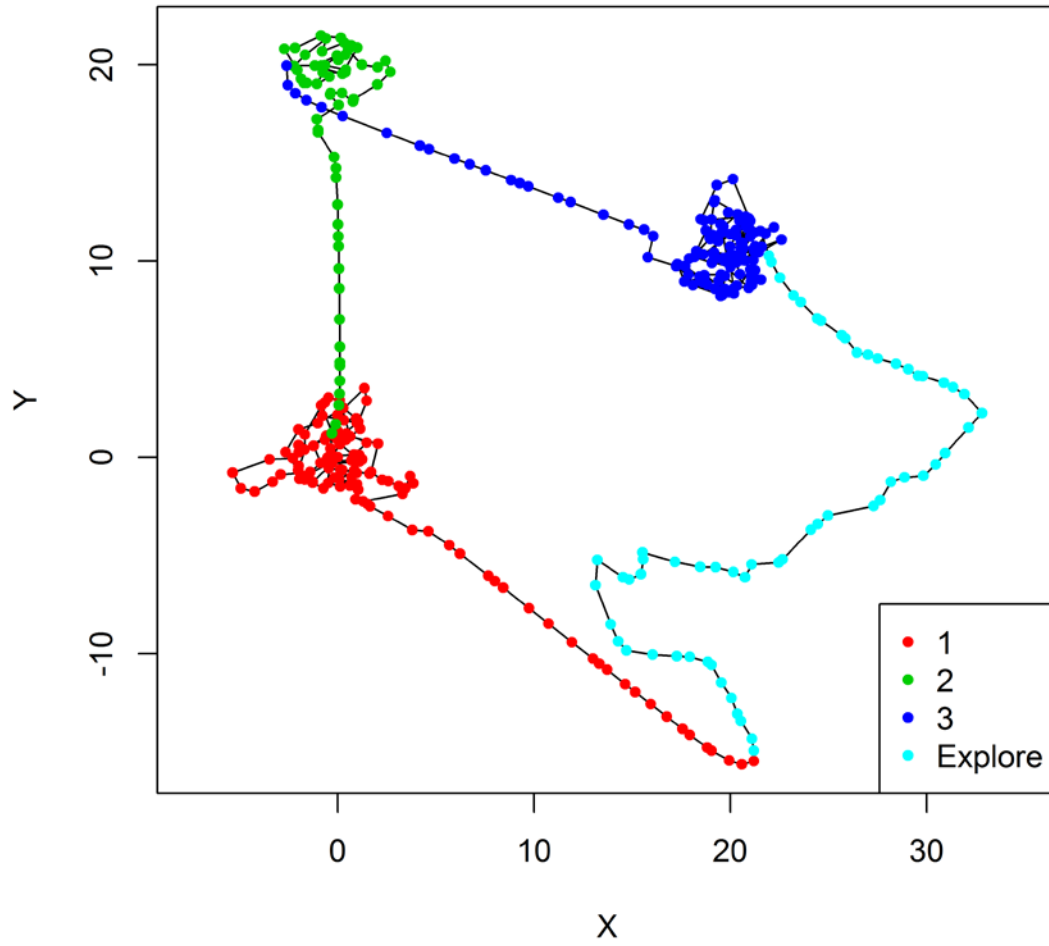
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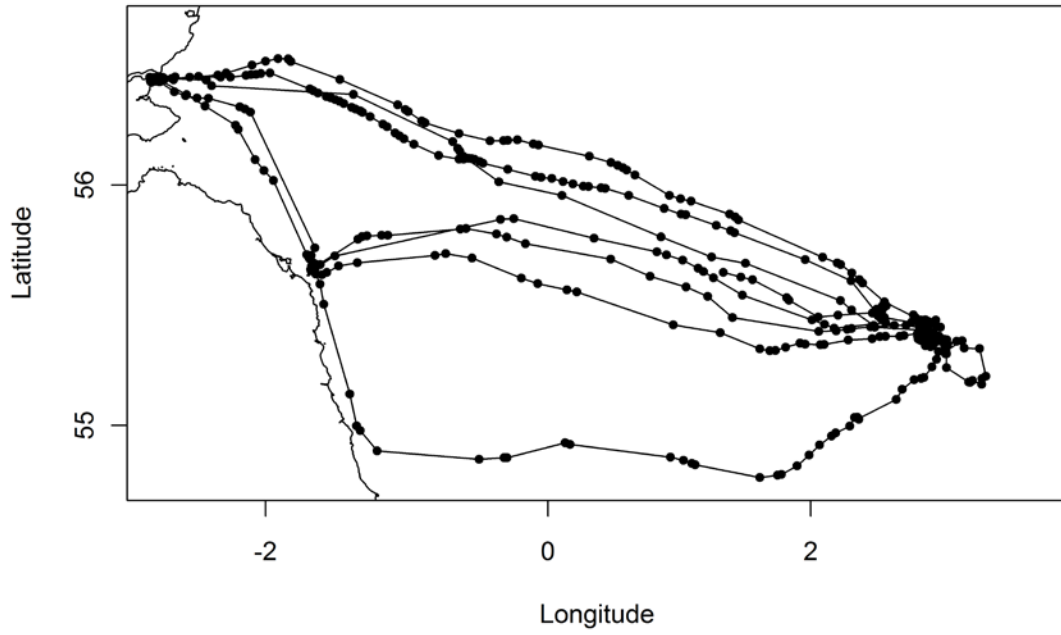
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990 Figure 2.



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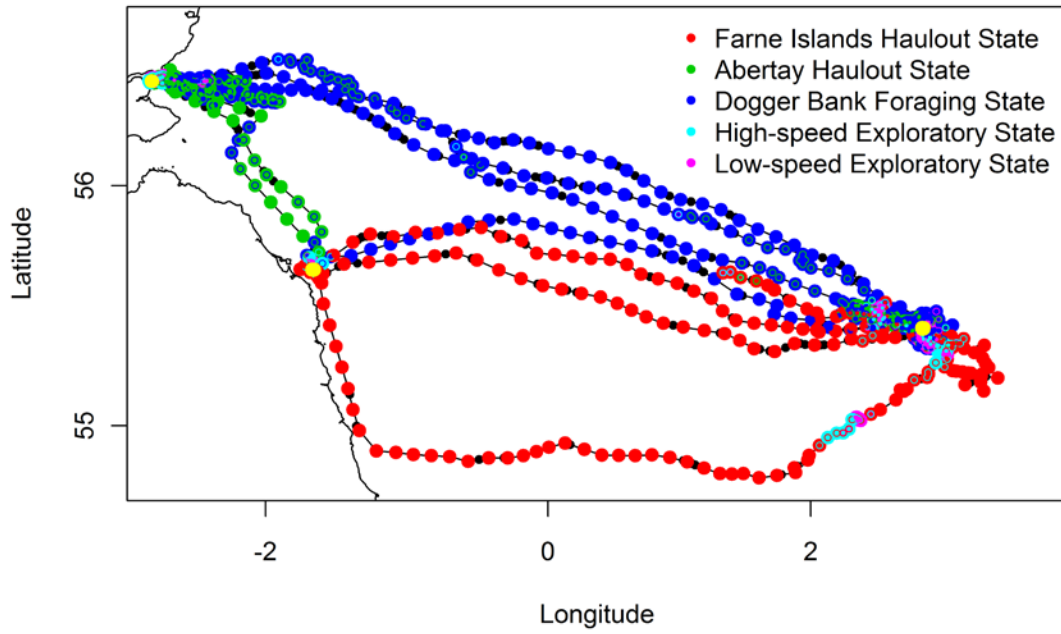
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1005 Figure 3.

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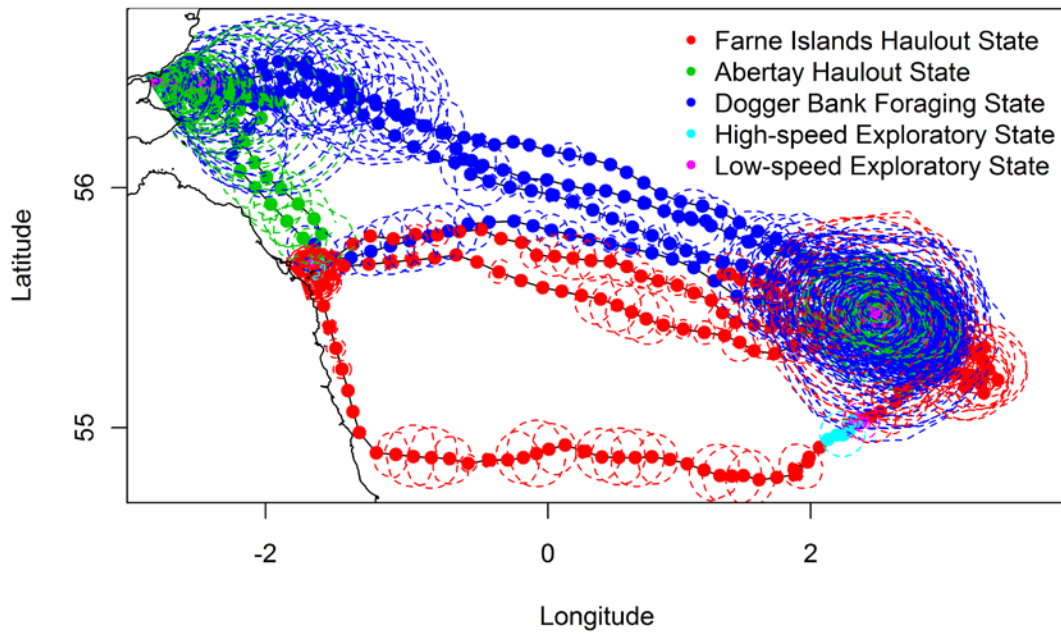
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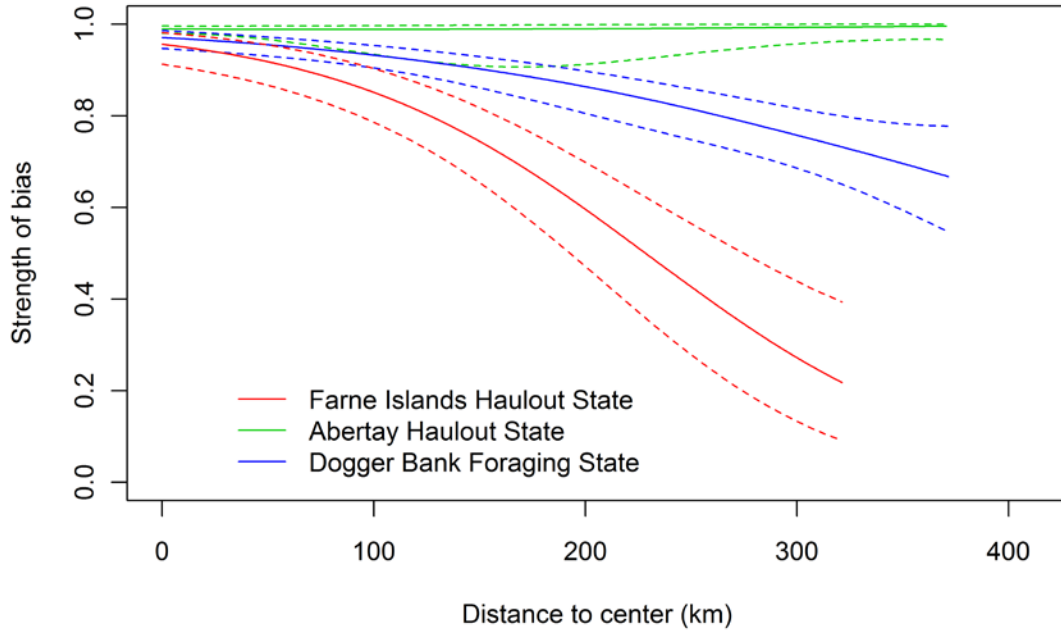
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1010 Figure 4.



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