

# Marine Mammal Movements: Data Analysis and Theory

David R. Brillinger  
Statistics Department  
University of California, Berkeley

[www.stat.berkeley.edu/~brill/marinepapers.html](http://www.stat.berkeley.edu/~brill/marinepapers.html)



East Sooke Park

Peter Wall Institute  
University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, BC

May 4-8, 2015



## Brent Stewart, Hubbs

Analysis of Data from Time-Depth Recorders and Satellite-Linked  
Time-Depth Recorders: Report of a Technical Workshop

September 20-22, 1992

Institute of Marine Science  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Fairbanks, AK 99775-1080

Fairbanks 1992

5 David Brillinger -  
Statistics Department  
University of California  
Berkeley, CA 94720  
brill@stat.berkeley.edu

8 Mike Castellini -  
Institute of Marine Science  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Fairbanks, AK 99775  
ffmac@acad3.alaska.edu

Dan Costa -  
Biological Sciences Division  
Code 1141  
Office of Naval Research  
800 N. Quincy Street  
Arlington, VA 22217  
costa@nosc.mil

Dan Crocker -  
Biology Department  
273 Applied Sciences  
University of California  
Santa Cruz, CA 95064  
dcrocker@cats.ucsc.edu

Kevin Engle -  
Institute of Marine Science  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Fairbanks, AK 99775  
ftkre@acad3.alaska.edu

John Francis -  
Cascadia Research Collective  
218<sup>1/2</sup> W 4th Avenue  
Olympia, WA 98501

8 Roger Gentry -  
National Marine Mammal  
Laboratory  
7600 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98115  
R.GENTRY/Omnet

Roger Hill -  
Wildlife Computers  
20630 NE 150th St.  
Woodinville, WA 98072

Sue Hill -

Wildlife Computers  
20630 NE 150th St.  
Woodinville, WA 98072

Mark Hindell -  
University of Tasmania  
G.P.O. Box 252C  
Hobart, Tasmania 7001  
Australia  
mark@diemen.utas.edu.au

Brendan Kelly -  
Institute of Marine Science  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Fairbanks, AK 99775  
fnbpb@acad3.alaska.edu

Kit Kovacs -  
Dept of Biology  
University of Waterloo  
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1  
Canada

Bernie McConnell -  
Sea Mammal Research Unit  
High Cross, Madingley Road  
Cambridge, England CB3 0ET  
us\_bjm@vaxc.nerc-bas.ac.uk

John Monahan -  
Dept of Statistics  
NC State Univ.  
P.O. Box 8203  
Raleigh, NC 27695-8203  
monahan@stat.ncsu.edu

Robert Newburgh -  
Director  
Biological Sciences Division  
Code 1141  
Office of Naval Research  
800 N. Quincy Street  
Arlington, VA 22217

Gary Oehlert -  
Dept of Applied Statistics  
Classroom Office Building  
University of Minnesota  
St Paul, MN 55108  
gary@umnstat.stat.umn.edu

Structure of presentation: 4 examples

## **Introduction**

. *“The science of statistics is essentially a branch of Applied Mathematics, and may be regarded as mathematics applied to observational data.”*

R. A. Fisher (1925)

Scientific work is often motivated by concepts and methods from physics and mathematics

Pertinent names: Newton, Einstein, Smoluchovsky, Langevin, Wiener, Chandrasekhar, Nelson, Kendall, ...

Beginning models abstract and mathematical but they motivate discrete time, programmable, checkable models.

Defence: providing answers to broad variety of questions.  
e.g. interventions existing?, predicted locations, change?

Goal is to estimate a potential function whose gradient appears in a (linear) model.

Then can use many regression results

# The mammals



Northern elephant seal



Monk seal



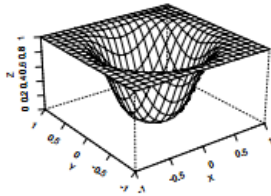
Whale shark + tag    Nor a mammal



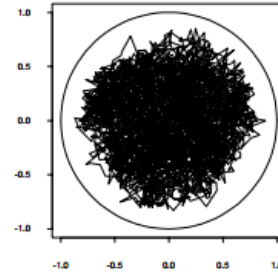
elk

# Interpretation of a potential function

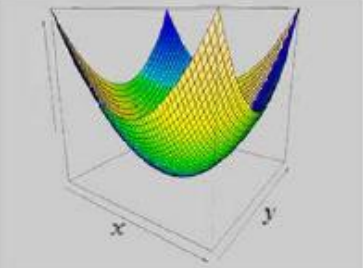
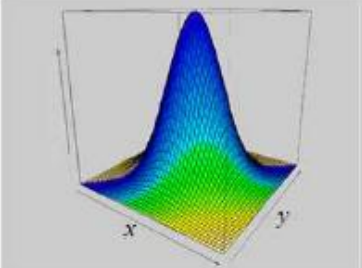
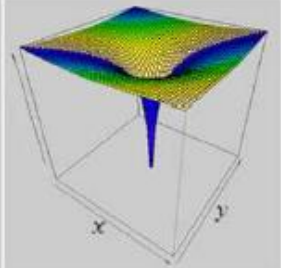
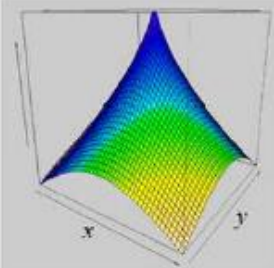
Motion described by SDE or gradient of a potential function

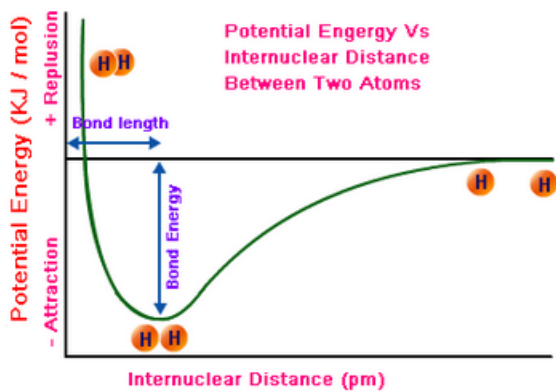


rolling ball bearing



types of potential functions: attraction, repulsion, time dependent, attractor-repellor, periodic, inverse power, polynomial, isotropic,

Example	Orenstein-Uhlenbeck	Gaussian	Gravitational	Zohdi
Potential function	$H = \beta_0 + \beta_1(x - x_0)^2 + \beta_2(y - y_0)^2$	$H = \exp\{\alpha(x - x_0)^2 + \beta(y - y_0)^2\}$	$H = \beta / D$	$H = \alpha D^{-\beta} - \gamma D^{-\delta}$
Potential surface				



$$||r||^\alpha$$

$$\hat{U}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_j \hat{\alpha}_j \phi_j(\mathbf{r}),$$

Path/track data from: elephant seals, monk seals, elk, whale shark tag



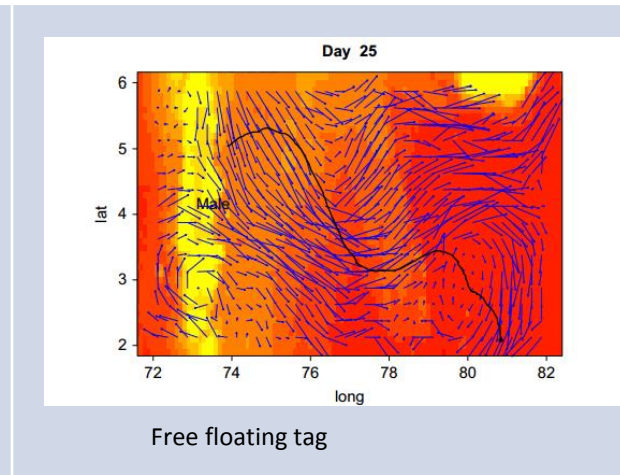
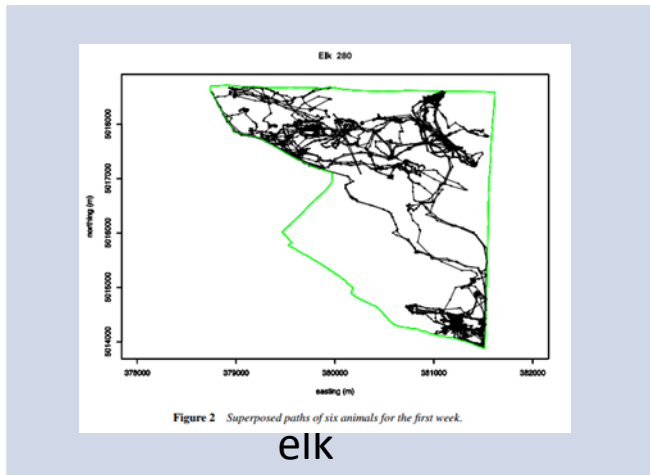
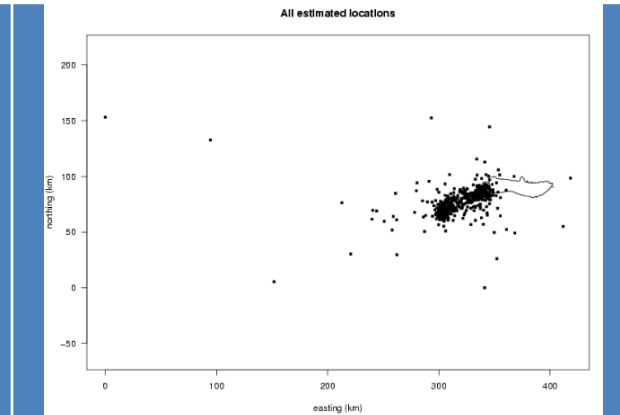
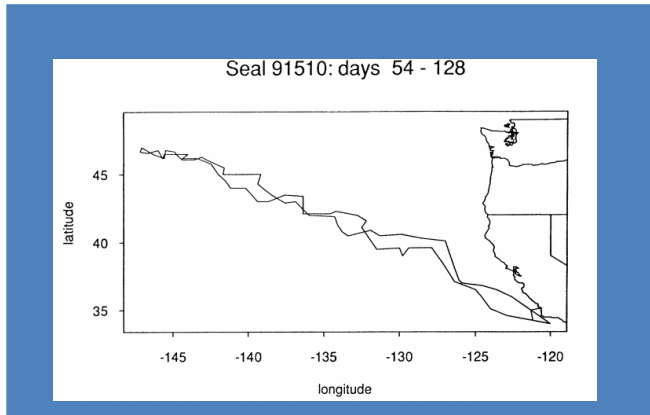
Reasons for study: endangered, coexistence possible?, discovery, management, prediction, change, outside influence?

Exploratory analytic method

Building on historical background and available statistical methods (EDA, least squares)



# Data



## Stochastic calculus

Langevin-Chandrasekhar equation

cp.  $F = ma$

acceleration

$$\mathbf{v} = d\mathbf{R}/dt, \quad m d\mathbf{v}/dt = -\gamma \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{R}) + \mathbf{\Psi}(t), \quad \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{R}) = -\text{grad } \mathcal{B}(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

Assuming friction,  $\gamma$ , is high

velocity  $\quad d\mathbf{R}/dt \sim -\text{grad } \mathcal{B}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \mathbf{\Psi}(t)$

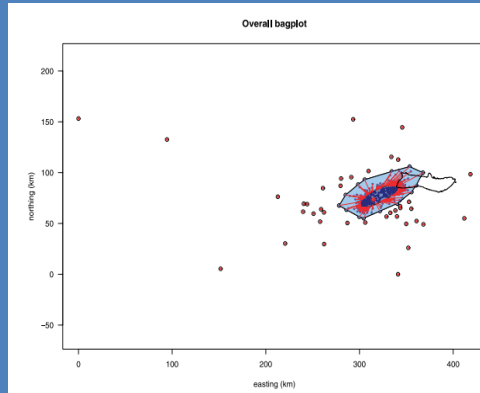
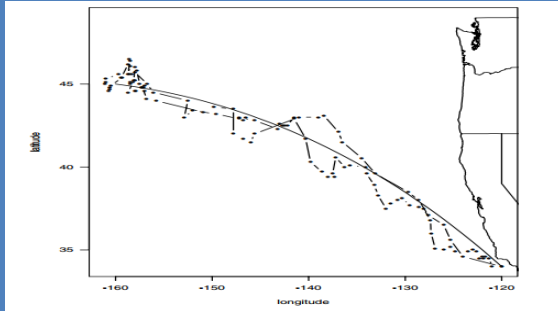
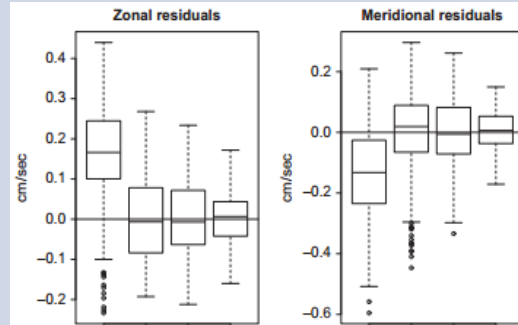
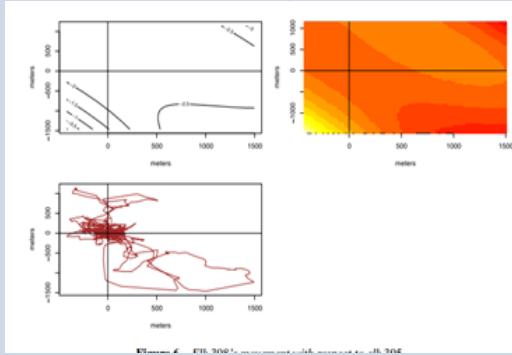


FIG 5. Bagplot of all the estimated locations. The bag and fence add detail to Figure 2.



Some results

**Example 1.** Northern elephant seal (*Mirounga angustirostris*)

Were virtually extinct

Size    male 2000 kg    female 600 kg

Exceptional navigators

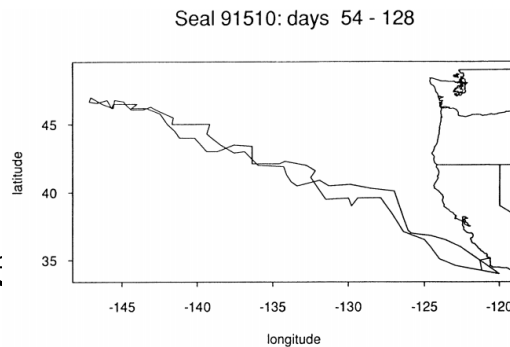
Most of year at sea

Double annual migrations

Able to assess position by astronomical or magnetic field and correct course???

forage continuously

EDA: discovery (visualization), need for robust/resistant methods



Great circle

Particle movement models

**Model 1.** particle model Random walk on sphere with drift, (lat, long) =  $(\theta, \varphi)$

D. G. Kendall model for birds, SDE

Change of variables so heading to North Pole

Equation of motion

$$d\theta_t = \frac{\sigma^2}{2 \tan \theta_t} dt + \sigma dU_t.$$

$$d\varphi_t = \frac{\sigma}{\sin \theta_t} dV_t.$$

Potential function

$$H(\theta, \varphi) = -\frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 \log \sin \theta.$$

point of attraction North Pole

# Inference

A discrete approximation to the model (8), (9) is provided by

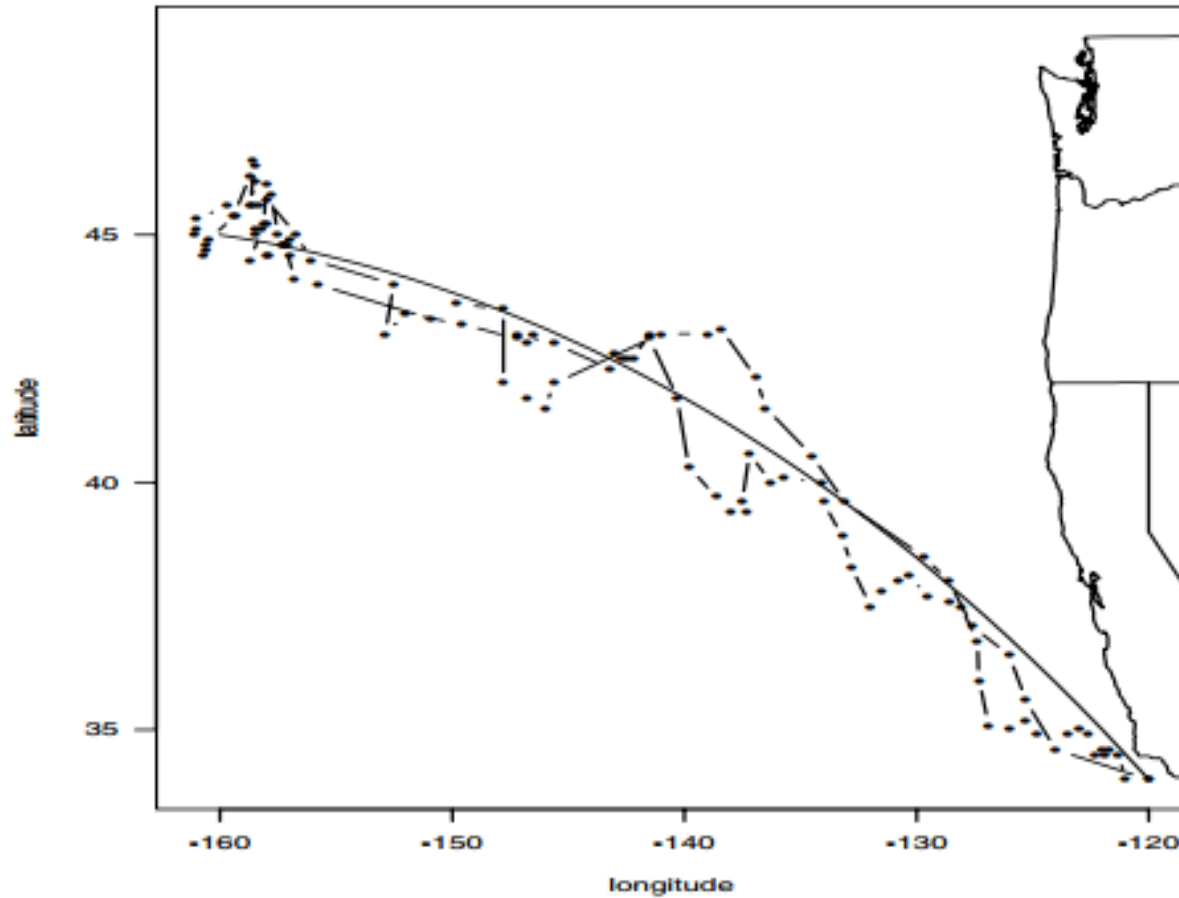
$$\theta_{t+1} - \theta_t = \frac{\sigma^2}{2 \tan \theta_t} - \delta + \sigma \epsilon_{t+1},$$

$$\phi_{t+1} - \phi_t = \frac{\sigma}{\sin \theta_t} \eta_{t+1},$$

-2 log like

$$2T \log \sigma^2 + \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum (\sin^2 \theta_t) (\phi_{t+1} - \phi_t)^2 + \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum \left( \theta_{t+1} - \theta_t + \delta - \frac{\sigma^2}{2 \tan \theta_t} \right)^2$$

Surprises . Brownian with trend on sphere, new model,  
path can be great circle





## Discussion.

great-circle path hypothesis not contradicted  
keep going straight ahead

one northern elephant seal female

Suggests seals can have a destination when departing from an origin

natural selection has favoured development of neural and sensory mechanisms

**Example 2. Monk seal** (*Monachus schauinslandi*)

Endangered. Now numbers around 1100

Key factor in recent decline poor survival of juveniles  
hypothesized related to poor foraging success

Basic motivation to learn where animals go to forage vertically and geographically.

Information needed for management and conservation purposes.

## **Example 2. Monk seal** (*Monachus schauinslandi*)

Endangered. Now numbers around 1100

Key factor in decline poor survival of juveniles

Hypothesized related to poor foraging success

Which geographic and vertical marine habitats seals use?

What habitats are essential, with some buffer, to the survival and vitality of this species?

Are there age and sex differences in habitats used when foraging?

Do seals have individual preferences in foraging locations and does an individual vary its behavior over different time scales?

how long is a foraging trip?

# To begin: EDA scatter plot of GIS positions

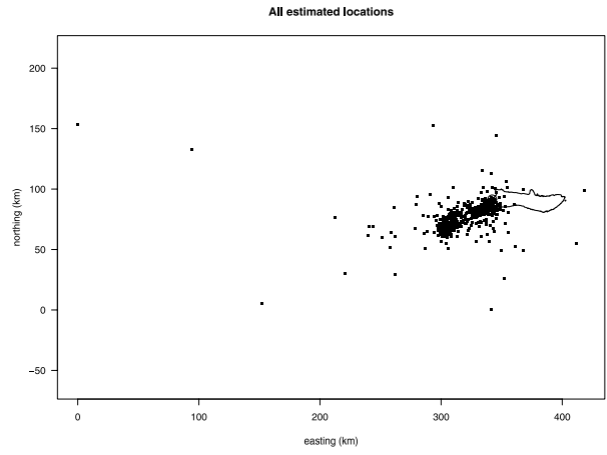


FIG 2. The figure shows all 573 of the estimated locations. The island is Molokai. The circle indicates the initial estimated position. The coordinates are UTM.

## EDA bagplot (bivariate boxplot)

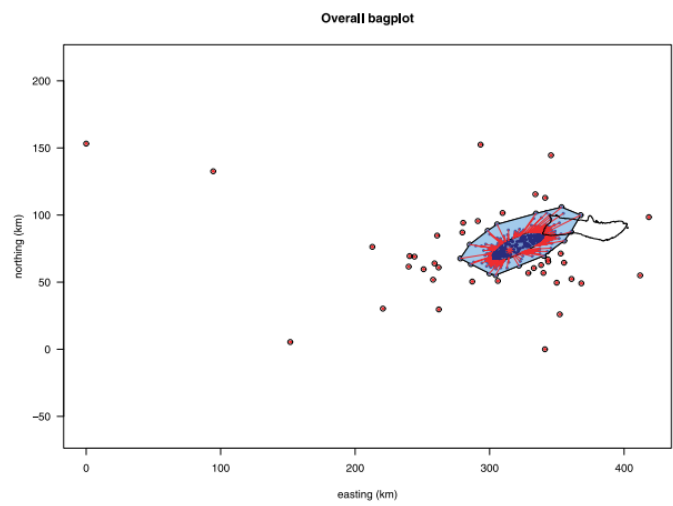


FIG 5. Bagplot of all the estimated locations. The bag and fence add detail to Figure 2.

Surprise: *Penguin Bank*

## Model 2

$$d\mathbf{r}_t = - \text{grad } U(\mathbf{r}_t) dt + \Sigma d\mathbf{B}_t$$

The potential function form employed in the computations to be presented is

$$\beta_1 x + \beta_2 y + \beta_3 x^2 + \beta_4 xy + \beta_5 y^2 + \beta_6 x^3 + \beta_7 x^2 y + \beta_8 xy^2 + \beta_9 y^3$$

with  $(x, y)$  denoting location. The gradient is

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2x & y & 0 & 3x^2 & 2xy & y^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & x & 2y & 0 & x^2 & 2xy & 4y^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

matrix multiplied by the transpose of the row vector

$$(\beta_1 \quad \beta_2 \quad \beta_3 \quad \beta_4 \quad \beta_5 \quad \beta_6 \quad \beta_7 \quad \beta_8 \quad \beta_9).$$

The result is linear in the  $\beta$ 's. Because of this linearity simple multiple regression may be employed to obtain estimates. The steps of the analysis were described in Sections 2 and 3.

$$\mathbf{r}(t_{i+1}) - \mathbf{r}(t_i) \approx \mu(\mathbf{r}(t_i), t_i)(t_{i+1} - t_i) + \Sigma(\mathbf{r}(t_i), t_i)\mathbf{Z}_i\sqrt{t_{i+1} - t_i}$$

# Foraging trips

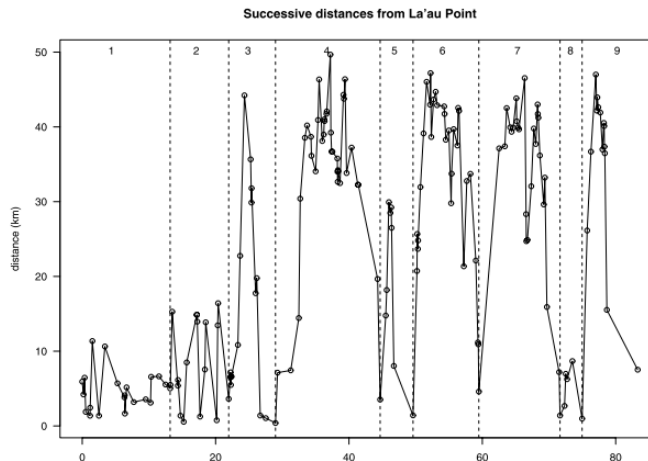
$$\mathbf{r}(t_{i+1}) - \mathbf{r}(t_i) \approx \boldsymbol{\mu}(\mathbf{r}(t_i), t_i)(t_{i+1} - t_i) + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}(\mathbf{r}(t_i), t_i)\mathbf{Z}_i\sqrt{t_{i+1} - t_i}$$

$\boldsymbol{\Sigma}(\mathbf{r}(t), t) = \sigma\mathbf{I}$ , one can consider  $\hat{\sigma}^2$  as an estimate of  $\sigma$ , where

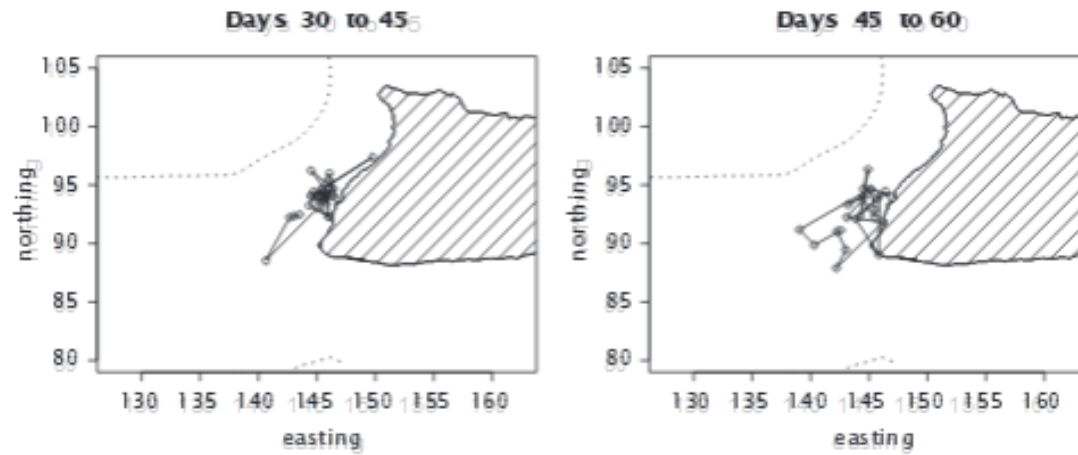
$$2\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{J} \sum_i \|\mathbf{r}(t_{i+1}) - \mathbf{r}(t_i) - \hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}(\mathbf{r}(t_i))(t_{i+1} - t_i)\|^2 / (t_{i+1} - t_i),$$

$$d\mathbf{r}(t) = \boldsymbol{\mu}(\mathbf{r}(t))dt + \sigma d\mathbf{B}(t), \quad \mathbf{r}(t) \in F$$

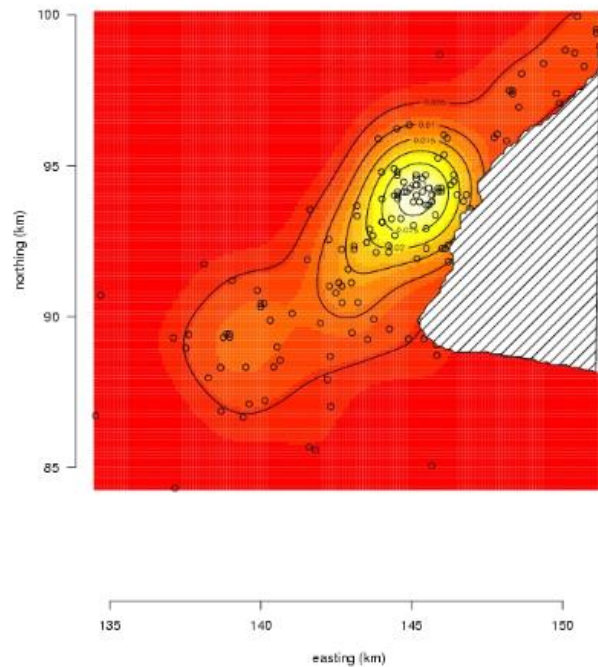
will be employed, with  $\mathbf{B}$  Brownian, and with the motion restricted to within  $F$ , the 200 fathom region.



## Second seal male



$$H(x, y) = \beta_{10}x + \beta_{01}y + \beta_{20}x^2 + \beta_{11}xy + \beta_{02}y^2 + C/d_M(x, y)$$



## Discussion.

Particular marine habitats attractors to foraging monk seals.  
Here foraging habitats confined to relatively shallow offshore bathymetric features

(i.e. less than 200 fathoms deep - Penguin Bank)

Time seal spent foraging appeared constrained by powerful attractor associated with periodic resting ashore (i.e., terrestrial haulout habitat).



### **Example 3. Elk (*cervus elaphus*)**

US Federal land managers examined effects on Rocky Mountain elk of forest management, domestic livestock grazing

Starkey Project initiated in northeastern Oregon  
9000 ha fenced area

Experiments using locations of elk, deer and cattle  
continuously monitored

Problem of interest: description of movement of free-ranging animals.

**Modell. gradient system** (Skorokhod).

$$d\mathbf{r}_i = - \sum_{j \neq i} \nabla V(\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j) dt + \sigma d\mathbf{B}_i.$$

Note  $\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j$

The potential function form employed is

$$\beta_1 x + \beta_2 y + \beta_3 x^2 + \beta_4 xy + \beta_5 y^2 + \beta_6 x^3 + \beta_7 x^2 y + \beta_8 xy^2 + \beta_9 y^3$$

with  $(x,y)$  denoting location. The gradient is

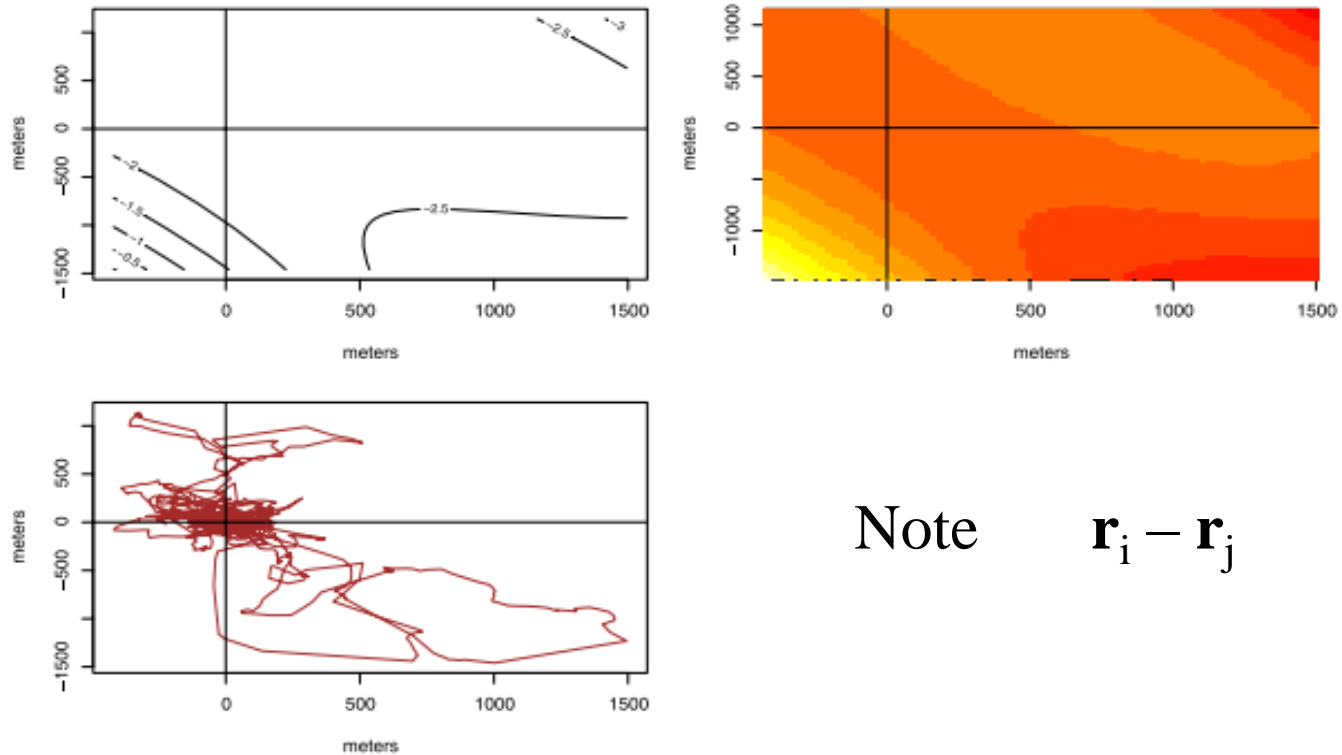
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2x & y & 0 & 3x^2 & 2xy & y^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & x & 2y & 0 & x^2 & 2xy & 3y^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

matrix multiplied by the transpose of the row vector

$$(\beta_1 \ \beta_2 \ \beta_3 \ \beta_4 \ \beta_5 \ \beta_6 \ \beta_7 \ \beta_8 \ \beta_9)$$

$\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}^T$  : linear combination of  $\beta$ 's

Estimated distance potential function



Note  $\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j$

**Figure 6** *Elk 398's movement with respect to elk 395.*

Attraction plus bias to SE

### Mode III. gradient system

The model is now

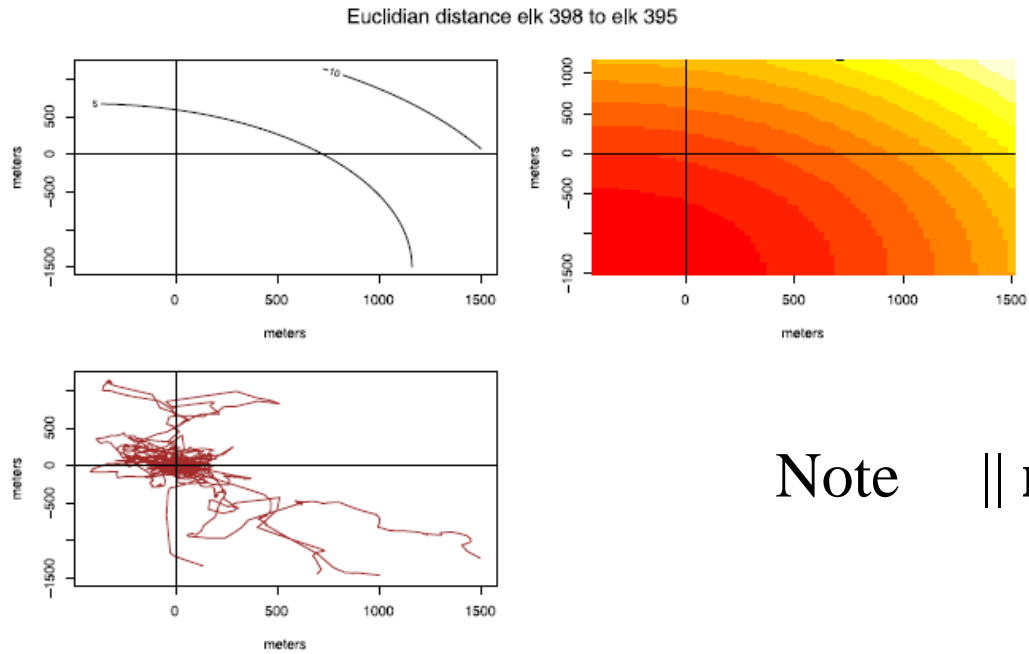
$$d\mathbf{r}_i = - \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{\nabla W(\|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j\|)}{\|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j\|} dt + \sigma d\mathbf{B}_{ij}$$

for some real-valued function  $W$  of real values.

Note

$$\|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j\|$$

# Distance apart



Note  $\| \mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j \|$

Figure 7 The results of fitting Model III with elk 398 dependent and 395 explanatory.

# Expanding layers

## **Discussion**

The last two models concern a particle being influenced by another particle of the same type or by a lagged particle of a different type.

## Further models.

$$d\mathbf{r}_i(t) = -\nabla U_i(\mathbf{r}_i(t)) dt - \sum_{i \neq j} \nabla V_{ij}(\mathbf{r}_i(t) - \mathbf{r}_j(t)) dt + \sigma d\mathbf{B}_i(t)$$

$$d\mathbf{r}(t) = \mu(\mathbf{r}(t))dt + v(|\mathbf{r}(t) - \mathbf{x}(t - \tau)|)dt + \sigma d\mathbf{B}(t).$$

Two models concerning particle being influenced by another of same type or by a lagged particle of different type (hunter).



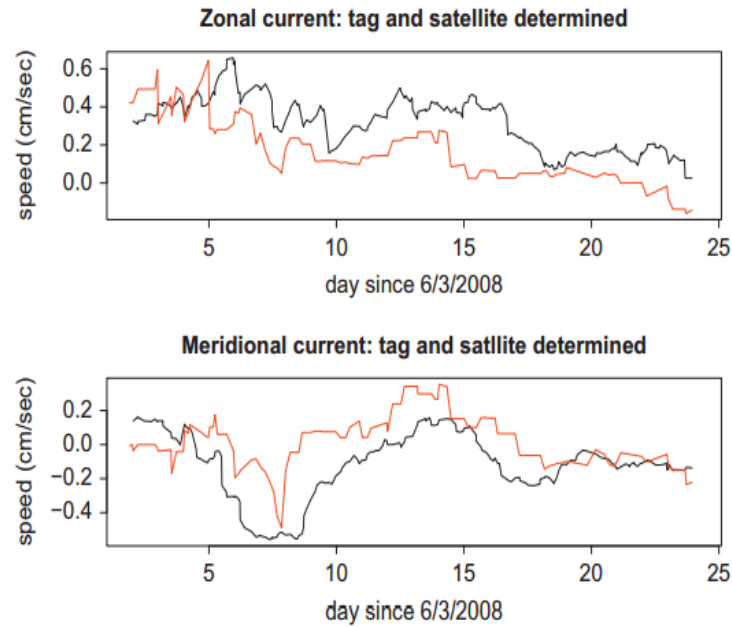
## Example 4 driftingtag.pdf

Based on surface drifting movement of a small satellite-linked radio transmitter tag.

Goal: to compare its movements (direction and velocity with direction and velocity of sea surface currents estimated independently from gradient of sea surface height..

Daily estimates of the tag's locations determined from transmissions received at irregular times by polar-orbiting satellites

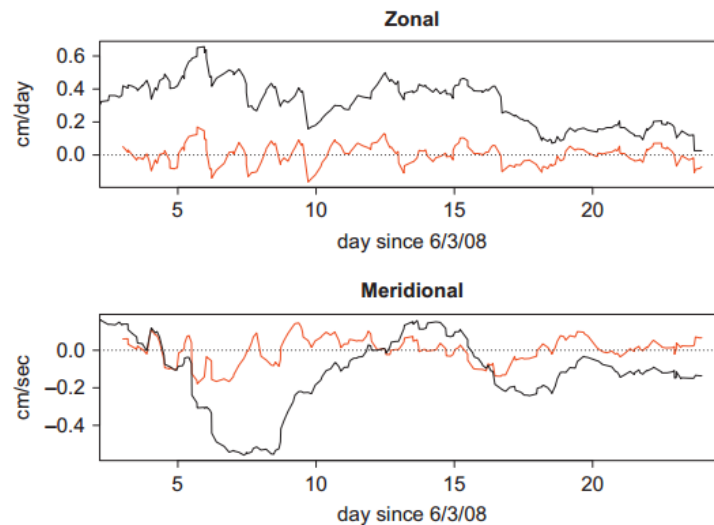
Second goal developing prescriptive model using past tag locations, the currents and winds



**Fig. 3.** The black lines provide the biweighted tag values (10). The top panel provides the east–west, i.e. zonal current and the bottom for the north–south, i.e. meridional. The red lines provides the geostrophic current values. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

Surface winds may be introduced into the model by including a term  $X_W$

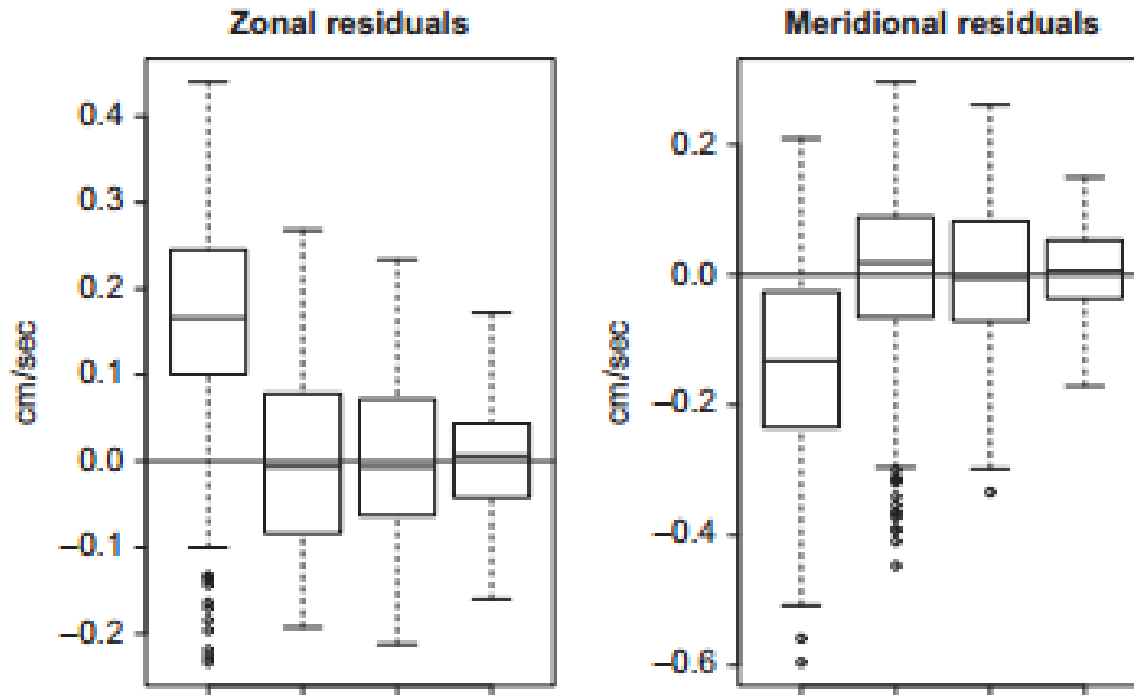
$$(r(t_{i+1}) - r(t_i)) / (t_{i+1} - t_i) = \alpha + \beta_C X_C(r(t_i), t_i) + \beta_W X_W(r(t_i), t_i) + \sigma Z_{i+1} / \sqrt{(t_{i+1} - t_i)}$$



**Fig. 5.** Results of fitting model (12) (i.e. including current, wind, and average of locations for the tag during the preceding 24 h).

form is  $V(\mathbf{r}) = \gamma_1 x + \gamma_2 y + \gamma_{11} x^2 + \gamma_{12} xy + \gamma_{22} y^2 + C/dM$

where  $dM = dM(x, y)$  is the distance from location  $(x, y)$  to the nearest point of a region,  $M$ ,



## Uses

intervention analysis

prediction

change

association

residual assessment

regression results

. explanatories

measurement error

...

## **Difficulties.**

Boundaries and other objects

Island/line – use nearest point

slopes

Outliers

Different (irregular) times for different animals

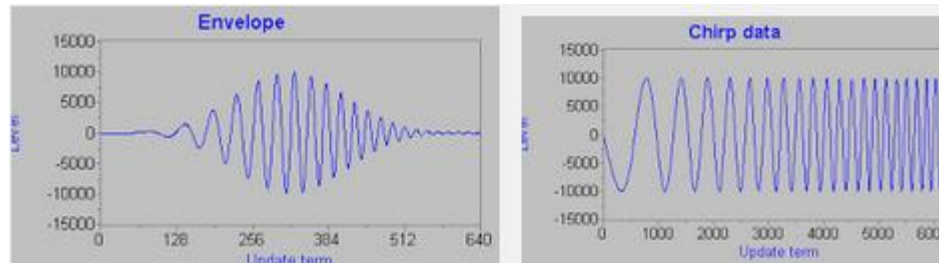
## Future work      variance stabilizing transform

1. Acceleration model (Data anyone?)
2. Effects of sound – add terms to movement model

e.g. moving (pressure) wave  $g(\alpha x + \beta y - \gamma t)$

Does  $g$  have an effect? Is there change?

Example filtered sonar signal



3. Study many animals at the same time (herd)

## Summary.

EDA discoveries: great circle, Penguin Bank, clustering, testing NOAA values, Brownian with trend on sphere

elephant seal

SDE model

monk seal

potential function model

two elk

three potential models

free floating tag

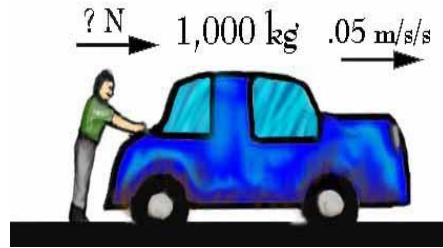
explanatories derived from a potential



## **Acknowledgments**

I thank my collaborators A. Ager, C. Littnan, H. Preisler,  
and B. Stewart

# Newton's Second Law [PUT TO END?]



Langevin (1908) “... trajectory of a particle ...”

$$\mathbf{v} = d\mathbf{R}/dt, \quad m d\mathbf{v}/dt = -\gamma \mathbf{v} + \Psi(t)$$

particle: marine mammal,      m: mass

$\gamma$ : friction coefficient:       $d\mathbf{v}/dt$ : acceleration

$m d\mathbf{v}/dt$ : momentum:       $\Psi$ : random forces

Chandrasekhar (1943) adds potential

$$\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{R}(t),t) = -(\delta / \delta \mathbf{x}, \delta / \delta \mathbf{y}) \mathcal{B}(\mathbf{R}(\mathbf{i}),t)$$

## *Stochastic calculus*

$t$ : continuous time     $t_i$  : increasing discrete times  
 $\mathbf{r}(t)$ : location at time  $t$

### *Random walk*

$$\mathbf{r}(t_{i+1}) - \mathbf{r}(t_i) = \text{IN}_2(0, (t_{i+1} - t_i)\mathbf{\Sigma})$$

*Brownian*  $\mathbf{B}(t)$   $t$  continuous

disjoint increments  $\mathbf{B}(I) \sim \text{IN}(0, |I|)$

$$d\mathbf{Y}(t) = \mathbf{Y}(t+dt) - \mathbf{Y}(t)$$

*Random walk with linear drift* SDE

$$d\mathbf{Y}(t) = (\boldsymbol{\alpha} + \boldsymbol{\beta}t)dt + \mathbf{\Sigma} d\mathbf{B}(t)$$

## Variance-stabilizing transform

diagonal and depends on  $\mathbf{r}$ . Specifically Ait-Sahalia (2008) presents conditions under which a process described by

$$d\mathbf{r} = \mu(\mathbf{r}) dt + \Sigma(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{B}$$

can be transformed into one satisfying

$$d\mathbf{r} = \mu(\mathbf{r}) dt + d\mathbf{B}$$

by an invertible infinitely differentiable function  $\nu$  satisfying  $\nabla \nu(\mathbf{r}) = \Sigma^{-1}(\mathbf{r})$ .

## **Details of computations**

Robust/resistant methods

EDA – visualization

lm, mgcv

# Appendix

Estimates large sample properties of estimates follow from existing results (Appendix)

$$\mathbf{r}(t_{k+1}) - \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{r}(t_{k+1}) | \mathcal{F}_k\}, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

martingale difference series  $\mathcal{F}_k$  pertinent sequence of  $\sigma$ -fields

$$\mu(\mathbf{r}) = g(\mathbf{r})^T \beta$$

$\beta$  and a  $p$  by  $L$  known function  $g$ . This assumes linear regression model

$$\mathbf{Y}_n = \mathbf{X}_n \beta + \epsilon_n$$

values  $(\mathbf{r}(t_{i+1}) - \mathbf{r}(t_i)) / \sqrt{t_{i+1} - t_i}$  to form the series  $\mu(\mathbf{r}(t_i), t_i) / \sqrt{t_{i+1} - t_i}$  to form the  $(n-1)p$  by  $1$  series  $\sigma \mathbf{Z}_{i+1}$  to form  $\epsilon_n$ . One is thereby led to consider

$$\hat{\beta} = (\mathbf{X}_n^T \mathbf{X}_n)^{-1} \mathbf{X}_n^T \mathbf{Y}_n$$

inverse exists. Continuing, one is led to estimate the  $j$ th entry of  $\mathbf{Y}_n$  and  $\mathbf{x}_j^T$  denote the  $j$ th row of  $\mathbf{X}_n$

$$s_j^2 = ((n-1)p)^{-1} \sum (y_j - \mathbf{x}_j^T \hat{\beta})^2 = (y_j - \mathbf{x}_j^T \hat{\beta}),$$

desired, proceed to form approximate confidence intervals (see results of [25]). In particular, the distribution of

$$(g(\mathbf{r})^T (\mathbf{X}_n^T \mathbf{X}_n)^{-1} g(\mathbf{r}))^{-1/2} g(\mathbf{r})^T (\hat{\beta} - \beta) / s_n$$

$$\hat{\delta} = -0.0113 \text{ rad/day} = -72.0 \text{ km/day},$$

$$\hat{\sigma} = 0.00805 \text{ rad/day} = 51.3 \text{ km/day}.$$

Standard error of  $\hat{\delta}$  is 0.0011.

$$\theta_t' = \theta_t + \tau \epsilon_t'$$

$$\phi_t' = \phi_t + \tau \gamma_t' / \sin \theta_t'$$

$$\theta_{t+1} - \theta_t = \frac{\sigma^2}{2 \tan \theta_t} - \delta + \sigma \epsilon_{t+1}$$

$$\phi_{t+1} - \phi_t = \frac{\sigma}{\sin \theta_t} \gamma_{t+1}$$

$$\hat{\delta} = .0126(.0001)$$

$$\hat{\delta}_1 = .0109(.0001)$$

$$\hat{\sigma} = .000489(.000004)$$

## Residuals

$$\frac{(\sin \bar{\theta}_t)(\bar{\phi}_{t+1} - \bar{\phi}_t)}{\hat{\sigma}}$$

## Measurement error

$$\theta_t' = \theta_t + \epsilon_t'$$

$$\phi_t' = \phi_t + \eta_t' / \sin \theta_t'$$

Measurement variance independent Gaussian noises correspond to measurement error.

Model (6.3-4) for the case of no measurement error. The values obtained are:

$$\hat{\delta} = .0112(.0011) \text{ radians}$$

$$\hat{\sigma} = .00805 \text{ radians}$$

- 16 -

$$\hat{\tau} = .0175(.0011)$$

$\delta$  speed towards the origin.

## Potential function

$$H(\varphi, \theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 \log \sin \theta - \delta \theta$$

point of attraction - North Pole