Detecting effects of spatial memory and dynamic information on animal movement decisions

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4 Short title: Spatial memory for movement decisions

⁵ Word count: 7000

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¹⁰ Summary

Animals of many species demonstrate movement behaviour in which decisions are
 based on a variety of information. Effects of resources have been studied widely, often
 under the assumption that the environment is constant over the course of the study.
 Much less understood is the role of dynamic information about continuously changing
 resource availability and past experiences. Such information can be acquired during
 movement bouts and used for future decisions via memory.

¹⁷ 2. We present a new class of animal movement models that incorporates a dynamic ¹⁸ interplay of movement and information gain processes. Information is contained in a ¹⁹ dynamic cognitive map. As an example, we consider time since last visit to locations ²⁰ and how this interacts with environmental information to shape movement patterns. ²¹ Our models can be fitted to empirical movement trajectories and are therefore amenable ²² to statistical inference (parameter estimation and model selection).

3. We tested the functionality of our method using simulated data. Parameter estimates
were in accordance with true values used in the simulations, and model selection via
Bayesian information criterion (BIC) was able to identify true underlying mechanisms
of simulated trajectories. Thus, if time since last visit to locations influences movement
decisions, our method is able to detect this mechanism.

4. The use of dynamic information such as the one demonstrated in our example models likely requires cognitive abilities such as spatial memory. Therefore, our method can be used to reveal evidence of spatial memory in empirical movement data. Understanding the components of individual movement decisions and their interactions ultimately helps us to predict how population distribution patterns respond to environmental changes, such as landscape fragmentation and changing climate. Keywords: animal movement, behaviour, information, cognitive map, memory, re source selection, step-selection function, mechanistic model

36 Introduction

Animal movement serves important needs such as food acquisition, escape from predators, and travel to reproduction sites. Consequently, many species have evolved capacities to move efficiently and purposefully by considering varying sources of information for their movement decisions (Janson & Byrne, 2007; Sulikowski & Burke, 2011). Explaining the mechanisms that underly such informed movement behaviour will allow us to better understand animal space-use patterns and their responses to environmental changes (Dalziel *et al.*, 2008; Nathan *et al.*, 2008; Sutherland *et al.*, 2013).

Most animals live in heterogenous environments, and the link between movement and environment has received much attention. Using classical resource-selection analyses (Manly *et al.*, 2002), a wide range of studies have demonstrated that animals selectively use the biotic and abiotic features that are available to them (Fortin *et al.*, 2005; Gillies *et al.*, 2011; Squires *et al.*, 2013). Analyses of movement characteristics have shown that animals express different movement behaviours, e.g. encampment or travel, in different habitats (Morales *et al.*, 2004; Forester *et al.*, 2007).

⁵¹ Most mechanistic models have concentrated on incorporating relationships between ⁵² environmental factors and movement behaviour within a static environment (but see Av-⁵³ gar *et al.*, 2013); however, observations show that animals also take into account dynam-⁵⁴ ically changing information and respond with their movements to temporal availability ⁵⁵ or unavailability of resources (Martin-Ordas *et al.*, 2009). For instance, fruit-eating pri-⁵⁶ mates express goal-oriented travel towards those trees in their home range that carry ⁵⁷ ripe fruit (Asensio *et al.*, 2011), and it has been suggested that monkeys use their daily

travels to monitor fruiting histories of trees (Janmaat et al., 2013; Janson & Byrne, 58 2007). On the other hand, many resources, once depleted, need some time before they 59 become available again, providing reason for animals to avoid depleted food patches 60 (Davies & Houston, 1981; Owen-Smith et al., 2010; Bar-Shai et al., 2011). Avoidance 61 behaviour may be a response not only to depletion of resources, such as plant biomass 62 or prey, but also to behavioural depression. Behavioural depression refers to a reduction 63 in prey availability that is caused by behavioural changes of the prey in response to 64 predation (Charnov et al., 1976). For example, prey may show greater alertness or seek 65 shelter. This reduces capture rates, to which predators may respond in turn by changing 66 their hunting areas (Jedrzejewski et al., 2001; Amano & Katayama, 2009). Temporal 67 considerations also become important for movement decisions if territorial defence mech-68 anisms require animals to visit certain locations regularly, e.g. to scent-mark territory 69 boundaries (Moorcroft & Barnett, 2008; Giuggioli et al., 2011). 70

As the above examples highlight, spatio-temporal information drives movement deci-71 sions and at the same time movement allows animals to update this information. Exper-72 imental findings additionally support that animals make decisions based on information 73 that they have obtained through previous experiences. Memory of information about 74 the 'what, where and when' of events, obtained through subjective experience, is termed 75 'www-memory' (Martin-Ordas et al., 2009) or 'episodic-like memory' (Griffiths et al., 76 1999). It is possible that animals acquire information about current environmental con-77 ditions through perceptual cues, even over large distances (Tsoar et al., 2011), and that 78 information about the recent travel history is stored in externalized 'memory', such as 79 pheromone trails or slime (Deneubourg et al., 1989; Reid et al., 2012). However, it is 80 likely that many animals draw upon internal memory, especially for behaviours that 81 require information about temporal distances ('how long ago?') (Griffiths et al., 1999; 82

Martin-Ordas *et al.*, 2009; Janmaat *et al.*, 2013). During recent years, movement models have started to incorporate influences of memorized information on movement decisions (for a review see Fagan *et al.*, 2013). Most of these are simulation models that are used for theoretical considerations only (but see Avgar *et al.*, 2013); however to test our understanding of the feedbacks between movement and information acquisition, we must also interface memory-based models with data (Smouse *et al.*, 2010).

Here, we present a new model for animal movement that is amenable to likelihood-89 based inference, and in which we mechanistically incorporate the interplay of movement 90 decisions, environmental information and dynamically changing temporal information. 91 Our model is similar in its form to recent spatially explicit resource-selection models 92 (e.g. Rhodes et al., 2005; Forester et al., 2009), in which movement steps are assigned 93 probabilities based on general movement tendencies and resource preferences. In previous 94 models, resource information enters as a static covariate, providing knowledge about 95 features of the landscape, such as land cover type or topographical features. In our model, 96 we add dynamic information obtained through experiences made during movement. To 97 realize the interplay of movement and information acquisition in our model, we draw on 98 the concept of a cognitive map (Tolman, 1948; Asensio *et al.*, 2011). We use this concept 99 here as a helpful mathematical construct that provides a map-like representation of the 100 animal's environment containing all relevant information. For an example of a dynamic 101 information-gain process we introduce information about the time since last visit to 102 locations. Time since last visit is useful information that can play a role, for example, in 103 the process of patrolling in canids or food acquisition across species if food availability 104 varies (Davies & Houston, 1981). With the inclusion of this information acquisition 105 process, we present a practical model that incorporates both dynamic information and 106 spatial memory. 107

We place our model into a model selection framework that allows us to identify which 108 types of information most likely shape the movement decision process. We first outline 109 the general formulation of our model and how memory effects can be integrated. Subse-110 quently, we present the details of several candidate models that correspond to different 111 underlying mechanisms of animal movement behaviour. Next, we show how the models 112 can be fitted to empirical movement trajectories to perform statistical inference. Finally, 113 using simulated data, we test the functionality of our framework and assess whether our 114 method can correctly detect effects of static resource information and dynamically chang-115 ing temporal information and whether we can estimate model parameters reliably. 116

117 Methods

For several decades, the basis of many animal movement models have been random walks. 118 In a classical random walk, movement is described as a series of discrete steps that have 119 independent and identical probability distributions. This has been extended to include 120 correlations between steps, biases towards specific locations, and step probabilities that 121 depend on the behavioural state of the individual (Morales et al., 2004; McClintock et al., 122 2012; Breed et al., 2012; Langrock et al., 2013). Random walks and their extensions 123 have been used both to analyze movement behaviour at an individual level (Lagrangian 124 approach; e.g. Smouse et al., 2010) and to derive partial-differential equation models 125 that describe spatio-temporal patterns at a population level or expected space-use of 126 individuals (Eulerian approach; e.g. Codling *et al.*, 2008). 127

We are interested in understanding decision processes that underly movement behaviour on the scale of individuals. We draw upon a modelling framework that bridges the gap between statistical resource-selection analysis and spatially explicit movement models (Rhodes *et al.*, 2005; Moorcroft & Barnett, 2008; Forester *et al.*, 2009). The

framework builds on a random walk and defines movement via step probabilities, which 132 have two components. A resource-independent movement kernel assigns probabilities to 133 steps based on the animal's general movement tendencies. Given this, a weighting func-134 tion evaluates the attractiveness of steps according to resource availability and resource 135 preferences. We extend this framework by generalizing the weighting function. In our 136 generalization, the weighting function does not only describe the influence of resources 137 but allows for the inclusion of any information relevant to the animal. Information can 138 pertain to landscape features and resources, as in previous models, but also to memories 139 of past events and timing aspects, which cannot be obtained externally but only through 140 the movement process and the animal's behaviour itself. We assume that information at 141 a given time is either obtained through direct perception or retrieved from the animal's 142 cognitive map (i.e. memory) which itself is updated through experience. In our model, 143 the cognitive map is a function that assigns values to locations according to their in-144 formation content at a given time. Thus, it serves as a mathematical tool without the 145 claim that it truly represents the underlying cognitive mechanism. With the framework 146 of the cognitive map we provide a general method for including an explicit information-147 acquisition process. The cognitive map itself can take many forms, depending on the 148 species and behaviour of interest. In our candidate models, we demonstrate examples of 149 types of information the cognitive map may contain. 150

¹⁵¹ The modelling framework

We consider movement paths of individual animals, and we assume that an individual's trajectory consists of a series of locations $(\boldsymbol{x}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_N)$ at regular times $T = \{1, \ldots, N\}$. Each location has an Easting and a Northing in two-dimensional space, which is discretized into a regular grid of square cells. The resolution of the spatial discretization depends on the available environmental data and should be fine enough compared to the animal's movement such that steps generally range over multiple cells. We model movement as a stochastic process, where the probability of making a step to location x_t depends on the location at time t - 1 and, if movement is persistent, on the previous step from x_{t-2} to x_{t-1} . We define this step probability as

$$p(\boldsymbol{x}_t | \boldsymbol{x}_{t-1}, \boldsymbol{x}_{t-2}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{k(\boldsymbol{x}_t; \boldsymbol{x}_{t-1}, \boldsymbol{x}_{t-2}, \boldsymbol{\theta}_1) w_t(\boldsymbol{x}_t; \boldsymbol{\theta}_2)}{\sum_{\boldsymbol{y} \in \Omega} k(\boldsymbol{y}; \boldsymbol{x}_{t-1}, \boldsymbol{x}_{t-2}, \boldsymbol{\theta}_1) w_t(\boldsymbol{y}; \boldsymbol{\theta}_2)}, \quad \text{eqn 1}$$

where k is an information-independent movement kernel, w_t is an information-based weighting function, and $\boldsymbol{\theta} = (\boldsymbol{\theta}_1, \boldsymbol{\theta}_2)$ is a collection of model parameters. The sum in the denominator ensures that p is an appropriately normalized probability mass function over space. The spatial domain Ω is the area within which the animal can choose to travel during the time relevant to the study.

Using the conceptual framework of Nathan *et al.* (2008), we can interpret the kernel 166 k as describing the animal's motion capacity and w_t as formulating the influence of 167 external factors, to which we add memorized information. Both k and w_t can be affected 168 by the animal's internal goal. For instance, if a herbivore is foraging it is likely that 169 it moves slowly, changes its movement direction frequently and generally stays in an 170 environment with suitable foraging material. It may additionally prefer to forage in an 171 area with low predation risk. Such behaviour could be implemented by a kernel that 172 assigns higher probabilities to locations in the animal's close vicinity with the same 173 values in all directions and a weighting function that has highest values in preferred 174 foraging habitat. The weighting function could also include information about previously 175 experienced presence of predators (Latombe et al., 2014). 176

In general, the movement kernel k can be very simple, e.g. constant within the animal's maximum movement radius (Rhodes *et al.*, 2005); however, we can also use a more complex kernel that accounts for persistence in movement direction or biases towards specific locations (Moorcroft & Lewis, 2006). Directions can be measured by either turning angles (the angles between successive steps) or bearings (the angles of steps with respect to a fixed direction, e.g. North).

We model the weighting function w_t as a resource selection function (Manly *et al.*, 2002; Lele & Keim, 2006). There are several forms available for resource selection functions, and here we present the logistic form,

$$w_t(\boldsymbol{x};\alpha,\boldsymbol{\beta},\boldsymbol{\gamma}) = \left[1 + \exp\left(-\alpha - \boldsymbol{\mathcal{I}}_t(\boldsymbol{x}) \cdot \boldsymbol{\beta} - f(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{I}}_t(\boldsymbol{x}),\boldsymbol{\gamma})\right)\right]^{-1}, \quad \text{eqn } 2$$

where \cdot denotes the dot product of two vectors. The vector $\mathcal{I}_t(\boldsymbol{x}) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is the cognitive 186 map content at location \boldsymbol{x} at time t containing the values of all information variables of 187 location \boldsymbol{x} at time t, and $\boldsymbol{\beta} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is a parameter vector describing the animal's preference 188 for a location of type $\mathcal{I}_t(\boldsymbol{x})$. The intercept $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ determines the baseline weight of a 189 location when all information variables are zero. The function f and parameter vector $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$ 190 account for possible interactions between different information variables. Locations with 191 preferred features have high weights, thereby increasing the chance that an animal will 192 visit those. The logistic form of the weighting function restricts weights to be between 193 zero and one, and therefore the weighting function can in fact be viewed as a resource 194 selection probability function (Lele & Keim, 2006). 195

Because of the dependence structure of the step probabilities in eqn 1, they are only valid for times $t \ge 3$. Here, we chose to define an initial probability for the first two locations, $p(\boldsymbol{x}_1, \boldsymbol{x}_2 | \boldsymbol{\theta}) = p(\boldsymbol{x}_2 | \boldsymbol{x}_1, \boldsymbol{\theta}) p(\boldsymbol{x}_1 | \boldsymbol{\theta})$. A simple option is to assume that every location in the spatial domain has the same probability to be the first location, 200 $p(\boldsymbol{x}_1|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{|\Omega|}$, and to let

$$p(\boldsymbol{x}_1 | \boldsymbol{x}_2, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{\tilde{k}(\boldsymbol{x}_2; \boldsymbol{x}_1, \kappa, \lambda) w_t(\boldsymbol{x}_2; \alpha, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\gamma})}{\sum_{\boldsymbol{y} \in \Omega} \tilde{k}(\boldsymbol{y}; \boldsymbol{x}_1, \kappa, \lambda) w_t(\boldsymbol{y}; \alpha, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\gamma})}, \quad \text{eqn 3}$$

where \tilde{k} is possibly a simplified form of k in case that k describes persistent movement. 201

Candidate models 202

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We consider four different models that represent biological hypotheses about the types of 203 information that an individual may consider for making movement decisions. In the sim-204 plest case, the *null model*, we assume that the animal considers no specific information. 205 In the *resource model*, an individual considers static information about the environment, 206 where 'static' means that the information content remains constant over the time span 207 of the analysis. Information can be given about any resources pertaining to the animal, 208 e.g. any variables as they are typical in resource-selection analyses. To include dynam-209 ically changing information, we allow information, and thereby the weighting function, 210 to change through time. If information were only given externally, this would constitute 211 a dynamic version of the resource model. However, our aim is to model a dynamic inter-212 play of movement decisions and information content. In the *memory model*, we therefore 213 introduce time since last visit as new type of information. To account for the possibility 214 that both resources and the dynamic variable time since last visit influence movement 215 decisions simultaneously, we consider a *combination model* as the most complex model. 216 We implement the different models by varying the information variable \mathcal{I}_t in the 217 weighting function (eqn 2) while using the same movement kernel for all models. For 218 example trajectories demonstrating the different movement patterns resulting from the 219 four candidate models, see Fig. 1 and animations in Appendix C.

221 Null model

In the null model, we assume that the information content of all locations is zero. Therefore, the weighting function is homogeneous across the landscape and constant over time, $w_t(\boldsymbol{x}) = 1$ for all $x \in \Omega, t \in T$. This means that the animal moves only according to the kernel k.

226 Resource model

In the resource model, information is static and includes all resource variables of interest, $\mathcal{I}_t(\boldsymbol{x}) = \mathcal{I}(\boldsymbol{x}) = (r_1(\boldsymbol{x}), \dots, r_n(\boldsymbol{x}))$ for every location $\boldsymbol{x} \in \Omega$. It is straightforward to extend this to dynamic resource information to include, e.g. seasonal changes in the landscape or disturbance events.

231 Memory model

In the memory model, we assume that while the animal moves through the environment, 232 it monitors the time since last visit from locations and uses this information for movement 233 decisions. For instance, recently visited areas may be avoided for a period of time, 234 whereas locations with long absence may be attractive. In our model, we include this 235 feature by defining the cognitive map as $m_t: \Omega \to \mathbb{N}$, which at any time assigns values 236 to all locations in the spatial domain based on the map values at the previous time and 237 the most recent movement step. If the animal moves from location \boldsymbol{x}_{t-1} to \boldsymbol{x}_t between 238 times t - 1 and t, we define for any location y in the spatial domain 239

$$m_t(\boldsymbol{y}) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } d(\boldsymbol{y}, \boldsymbol{z}) \leq \delta \text{ for any } \boldsymbol{z} \in \text{path}(\boldsymbol{x}_{t-1} \to \boldsymbol{x}_t) \\ \\ m_{t-1}(\boldsymbol{y}) + 1, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad \text{eqn } 4$$

Because of our spatial discretization, we use $d(\boldsymbol{y}, \boldsymbol{z}) = |y_E - z_E| + |y_N - z_N|$ as the distance 240 between two locations $\boldsymbol{y}, \boldsymbol{z}$ with Easting and Northing $\boldsymbol{y} = (y_E, y_N)$ and $\boldsymbol{z} = (z_E, z_N)$, 241 such that all locations within a distance δ of a fixed location \boldsymbol{z} form a diamond-shaped 242 area around \boldsymbol{z} . We assume that $\mathrm{path}(\boldsymbol{x}_{t-1} \to \boldsymbol{x}_t)$ is the straight line between \boldsymbol{x}_{t-1} 243 and x_t . Via eqn 4, an individual counts the number of steps it remains absent from 244 locations, and therefore $m_t(\boldsymbol{x})$ is the time since last visit to location \boldsymbol{x} at time t. A 245 location is considered visited when the animal comes within a distance $\delta > 0$. Because 246 m_t is obtained recursively, we have to define appropriate starting values. Here, we use 247 movement data prior to the trajectory $(\boldsymbol{x}_1,\ldots,\boldsymbol{x}_N)$ for initialization. If a location \boldsymbol{x} was 248 visited during the initialization phase, we calculate the time between the last visit to 249 this location and the beginning of our actual trajectory and thus reconstruct time since 250 last visit at time $t = 1, m_1(\mathbf{x})$. For all locations not visited during initialization, we 251 set time since last visit as the length of the initialization phase. The dynamic variable 252 time since last visit is used in the memory model to inform movement decisions via 253 $\mathcal{I}_t(\boldsymbol{x}) = m_{t-1}(\boldsymbol{x})$. Once \boldsymbol{x}_t is chosen according to the probability mass function in eqn 1, 254 m_t is updated via eqn 4. Here, we track time since last visit for the entire spatial domain 255 Ω . If the selection coefficient with respect to $m_t(\mathbf{x})$ is positive, this leads to any location 256 eventually becoming highly attractive after long enough absence. If this behaviour is 257 not desired, one may adjust the definition of the cognitive map or weighting function 258 appropriately. For example, if prior information about an animal's behaviour is given, 259 it is possible to track time since last visit only for certain locations of specific interest. 260

261 Combination model

In the combination model, we allow information types from both the resource and the memory model to influence movement simultaneously by letting the information vector be $\mathcal{I}_t(\boldsymbol{x}) = (r_1(\boldsymbol{x}), \ldots, r_n(\boldsymbol{x}), m_{t-1}(\boldsymbol{x}))$. In particular, this models allows for interactive effects of time since last visit and resource variables, e.g. by incorporating multiplicative terms of the form $\gamma r(\boldsymbol{x}) m_{t-1}(\boldsymbol{x})$ into the interaction term $f(\mathcal{I}_t(\boldsymbol{x}), \boldsymbol{\gamma})$ in the weighting function (eqn 2). This is important in situations where return times to locations matter depending on the resources at the location, e.g. average return times to preferred foraging areas may differ from those to locations used as shelter.

270 Information-independent kernel

We define the movement kernel k based on a step length distribution with density S and a distribution for movement directions with density Φ . For step length, we use a Weibull distribution with scale and shape parameter $\kappa > 0$ and $\lambda > 0$, respectively, because it has a flexible form and generally shows a good fit with empirical data (Morales *et al.*, 2004). Thus,

$$\mathcal{S}(\|\boldsymbol{x}_t - \boldsymbol{x}_{t-1}\|; \kappa, \lambda) = \frac{\kappa}{\lambda} \left(\frac{\|\boldsymbol{x}_t - \boldsymbol{x}_{t-1}\|}{\lambda}\right)^{\kappa-1} \exp\left(-\left(\frac{\|\boldsymbol{x}_t - \boldsymbol{x}_{t-1}\|}{\lambda}\right)^{\kappa}\right). \quad \text{eqn 5}$$

To measure movement directions, we use bearings, and we denote the bearing of the step from \boldsymbol{x}_{t-1} to \boldsymbol{x}_t by $\varphi(\boldsymbol{x}_{t-1}, \boldsymbol{x}_t) \in [-\pi, \pi)$. We include directional persistence by choosing a wrapped Cauchy distribution for bearings with scale parameter $\rho > 0$ and mode at the previous step's bearing $\varphi(\boldsymbol{x}_{t-2}, \boldsymbol{x}_{t-1})$,

$$\Phi\left(\varphi(\boldsymbol{x}_{t-1}, \boldsymbol{x}_t); \varphi(\boldsymbol{x}_{t-2}, \boldsymbol{x}_{t-1}), \rho\right) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{\sinh \rho}{\cosh \rho - \cos(\varphi(\boldsymbol{x}_{t-1}, \boldsymbol{x}_t) - \varphi(\boldsymbol{x}_{t-2}, \boldsymbol{x}_{t-1}))}. \quad \text{eqn 6}$$

The wrapped Cauchy distribution is convenient for implementation, and it has been used commonly to model movement directions (Morales *et al.*, 2004; Codling *et al.*, 2008, note that eqn 6 is equivalent to their formula with parameter transformation $r = \exp(-\rho)$). One could use alternative distributions, such as the von Mises distribution or wrapped ²⁸⁴ normal distribution (Codling *et al.*, 2008). Assuming that the choices for step length ²⁸⁵ and movement direction are independent, the kernel becomes the product of S and Φ , ²⁸⁶ describing a correlated random walk,

$$k(\boldsymbol{x}_t; \boldsymbol{x}_{t-1}, \boldsymbol{x}_{t-2}, \kappa, \lambda, \rho) = \mathcal{S}(\|\boldsymbol{x}_t - \boldsymbol{x}_{t-1}\|; \kappa, \lambda) \Phi(\varphi(\boldsymbol{x}_{t-1}, \boldsymbol{x}_t); \varphi(\boldsymbol{x}_{t-2}, \boldsymbol{x}_{t-1}), \rho). \quad \text{eqn 7}$$

Because the kernel formulates persistent movement and takes into account the bearing of the previous step, we define a simplified kernel for t = 2 as

$$\tilde{k}(\boldsymbol{x}_{2};\boldsymbol{x}_{1},\kappa,\lambda) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{\kappa}{\lambda} \left(\frac{\|\boldsymbol{x}_{t} - \boldsymbol{x}_{t-1}\|}{\lambda} \right)^{\kappa-1} \exp\left(-\left(\frac{\|\boldsymbol{x}_{t} - \boldsymbol{x}_{t-1}\|}{\lambda}\right)^{\kappa}\right). \quad \text{eqn 8}$$

²⁸⁹ This means that we assume a uniform distribution for the first bearing.

Note that this definition of the movement kernel from step length and bearing dis-290 tributions does not mean that we obtain the kernel from empirical step lengths and 291 bearings in advance and then use this observed kernel to estimate the weighting func-292 tion parameters in a case-control study, as has been previously suggested for resource-293 selection analysis (Fortin et al., 2005; Forester et al., 2009). Because movement and 294 resource selection are not independent processes, a decoupled treatment of the processes 295 can lead to biased estimates. We circumvent this problem, and we use the formulation 296 in terms of step length and bearing only to define the functional form of the information-297 independent movement kernel. During model fitting (see next section) we estimate all 298 model parameters simultaneously from the data. 299

300 Statistical inference

If information \mathcal{I}_t is known, the likelihood function for the collection of parameters $\boldsymbol{\theta} = (\kappa, \lambda, \rho, \alpha, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\gamma})$ for the general model is

$$L(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = p(\boldsymbol{x}_1, \boldsymbol{\theta}) p(\boldsymbol{x}_2 | \boldsymbol{x}_1 \boldsymbol{\theta}) \times \prod_{t=3}^{N} p(\boldsymbol{x}_t | \boldsymbol{x}_{t-1}, \boldsymbol{x}_{t-2}, \boldsymbol{\theta}). \quad \text{eqn 9}$$

In the memory and combination model, \mathcal{I} includes the variable time since last visit $\mathbf{m} = (m_t, t \in T)$, which represents internal information of the animal that in general cannot be observed. However, because of the way we define and initialize \mathbf{m} , we are able to iteratively calculate the time series (m_1, \ldots, m_N) based on the movement trajectory. Therefore, given the data $(\mathbf{x}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{x}_N)$, time since last visit becomes a known covariate, and the likelihood function in eqn 9 is valid for all models.

To obtain parameter estimates and their confidence intervals for all models we use 309 data cloning (Lele *et al.*, 2007). Data cloning uses Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) 310 methods, which are usually employed in Bayesian statistical inference. However, data 311 cloning provides approximations to maximum likelihood estimates (MLE), together with 312 Wald-type confidence intervals, thus facilitating frequentist inference; see Appendix A.2. 313 We use the approximate MLEs for the model parameters in eqn 9 to calculate the cor-314 responding approximate maximum likelihood values. From these, we obtain the Bayesian 315 Information Criterion (BIC) for each of the four models (Burnham & Anderson, 2002). 316 Alternatively, we could have used Akaike information criterion (AIC); however for large 317 datasets, AIC tends to favour overly complex models (Link & Barker, 2006). For each 318 trajectory, we select the model with smallest BIC as the one that explains the decision 319 mechanism of the trajectory best. We use the BIC of this best model as a reference to 320 calculate BIC differences for all alternative models ($\Delta BIC = BIC_{alternative} - BIC_{best}$). 321

A common problem in statistical inference are missed observations. Missed locations 322 in an otherwise regular movement trajectory occur, for instance when GPS devices fail 323 to acquire satellite signal due to closed canopy or otherwise limited available sky. In 324 an autocorrelated trajectory, with each missed location we additionally lose associated 325 information. Calculations of step lengths and bearings require two successive locations. 326 In models with persistent movement, we require not only the current but also the pre-327 vious bearing for step probabilities. Therefore, in a correlated random walk, one missed 328 location can effectively lead to a gap of two full steps. In MCMC-based data cloning, 329 we can treat missed locations explicitly as unknown variables and account for this in the 330 likelihood function, 331

$$L(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \int p(\boldsymbol{x}_{\text{avail}}, \boldsymbol{x}_{\text{miss}}) \, d\boldsymbol{x}_{\text{miss}}. \qquad \text{eqn 10}$$

This allows to preserve the entire dependency structure of the trajectory and avoids the need to discard any information. For more information on this, see Appendix A.3.

334 Simulation study

To verify the functionality of our method we applied the modelling framework and sta-335 tistical inference method to simulated data. Because eqn 1 defines probability mass 336 functions for movement steps, we can sample from them to iteratively generate individ-337 ual movement trajectories according to the four candidate models. These data have the 338 advantage that we know both a trajectory's underlying mechanism and the parameter 339 values that were used to generate the trajectory. By applying our inference procedure 340 to these data, we investigated whether we were able to identify the true underlying 341 mechanism of a trajectory and whether we were able to correctly estimate parameter 342 values. 343

344 Simulation of landscapes

Because movement decisions in the resource and combination model are based on envi-345 ronmental information, we first simulated landscapes of covariate values. We consider 346 two resources (r_1, r_2) , one having a continuous range of values, e.g. a biomass measure 347 or elevation, and the other representing presence or absence of a feature, e.g. a preferred 348 food source, via a binary variable that takes either value 1 or 0. To include biological 349 realism, we accounted for spatial correlations in the covariate values. We simulated five 350 pairs of landscapes with varying spatial structures. For more information see Appendix 351 A.1. 352

353 Simulation of movement trajectories

We generated movement trajectories using the four candidate models presented above. When we used the null model, we called the resultant trajectory a *null trajectory*, and we named trajectories analogously for the other models.

On each of the five landscape pairs, we simulated a null, resource, memory and 357 combination trajectory, using the same movement parameter values on all landscapes 358 and across all four models, as applicable (Fig. 3). The kernel parameters κ , λ , ρ appear 359 in all models. The resource model has additional parameters α_{res} , β_1 , β_2 , which are 360 the intercept and the selection parameters with respect to the two resources (r_1, r_2) 361 of the weighting function (eqn 2). In this model, we assumed there is no interaction 362 between the two resources. The memory model instead has additional parameters α_{men} 363 and β_{mem} , which describe the animal's preferences with respect to time since last visit 364 **m**. In the combination model, the weighting function includes all effects, such that it 365 has parameters $\alpha_{\rm com} = \alpha_{\rm res} + \alpha_{\rm mem}$, β_1 , β_2 , and $\beta_{\rm mem}$. In this model, we further allowed 366 for interactions between resources and time since last visit by defining the interaction 367

term in the weighting function as $f((r_1, r_2, m_t), \gamma_1, \gamma_2) = \gamma_1 r_1 m_t + \gamma_2 r_2 m_t$, where γ_1 and γ_2 are the interaction parameters. We chose the main set of parameter values to represent realistic movement behaviour. To account for scenarios for which parameter values were potentially more difficult to estimate from data, e.g. small values of selection parameters, we generated two supplemental data sets, comprising two additional sets of 20 trajectories each generated from alternative sets of parameters; see Appendix B.1 and B.2.

For all trajectories, we simulated 2600 time steps, of which we discarded the first 1400 steps as initialization. This was particularly important for the memory model, in which we started with a cognitive map having value 0 everywhere. We used the last 400 steps from the initialization phase to calculate m_1 . Each final trajectory consisted of 1200 time steps, which we considered a length commonly available (e.g. 1200 time steps could represent 50 days of 1-hr data or 100 days of 2-hr data).

For an example of how to handle missed observations, we simulated a combination trajectory with 90% fix rate by removing locations from a trajectory, 5% as single locations and 5% as two successive locations. We chose a trajectory from the main data set, which allowed us to compare results for completely and incompletely observed trajectory; see Appendix B.2.2.

386 Analysis of simulated data

To every simulated trajectory, we fitted all four candidate models (Fig. 3) using data cloning. For details about the data cloning and MCMC procedures, such as number of clones and iterations used, see Appendix A.2. There were two basic types of model fits that we distinguished in our analyses. A model could be fitted to a matching trajectory, i.e. a trajectory that had been simulated using the same model's mechanism (e.g. a resource model fitted to a resource trajectory). Or, a model could be fitted to a nonmatching trajectory (e.g. a resource model fitted to a null, memory or combination trajectory). Each model fit generated estimates of the model parameters, together with Wald-type confidence intervals. Here, we used 95% confidence intervals. Using the approximate maximum-likelihood parameter estimates from data cloning, we estimated the maximum value of the model likelihood, and BIC, for each model fit.

For all parameter estimates, we examined whether their potential scale reduction 398 factors \hat{R} were close to 1 (Gelman & Rubin, 1992). For an MCMC fit, in which parallel 399 Markov chains are used to generate the posterior distribution of a parameter, the poten-400 tial scale reduction factor of a parameter indicates whether the chains have mixed well 401 and converged. If this is not the case, the estimate that results from such an MCMC 402 is not meaningful. We considered a potential scale reduction factor $0.9 \leq \hat{R} \leq 1$ to be 403 sufficiently close to 1 (Gelman & Rubin, 1992), and we excluded all parameter estimates 404 that did not meet this condition from our analysis. Whenever such a non-convergent 405 or non-mixing parameter occurred within a model fit, the resultant likelihood and BIC 406 values of the fit were possibly inaccurate. Therefore, if a model fit included one or more 407 parameters with $\hat{R} < 0.9$ or $\hat{R} > 1.1$, we excluded the BIC value from our model-selection 408 analysis. 409

For each trajectory, we compared whether the best model according to model selection via BIC coincided with the true underlying model of the trajectory. Under the assumption that our framework is functional, we expected the model that matched a trajectory's underlying mechanism to have minimal BIC. Because both the resource model and the memory model are nested within the combination model, we further expected the combination model, when applied to a resource or memory trajectory, to perform better than the simple alternative (e.g. a memory model applied to a resource trajectory). For matching model fits, we compared true parameter values that were used to generate a trajectory to the parameter estimates obtained from applying the matching model, and we examined whether 95% confidence intervals of parameters included the true values. This should be achieved 95% of the time if parameters are identifiable and our statistical methodology is functional.

In resource-selection analysis, it is usual to use hypothesis testing to determine 422 whether a covariate has an effect or not. We performed an equivalent analysis and 423 examined confidence intervals of the selection parameters β_1 , β_2 , β_{mem} , γ_1 , γ_2 in those 424 model fits, in which the combination model was fitted to a trajectory. The combination 425 model includes all possible covariates, but not all covariates were simulated to have an 426 effect in all trajectories, e.g. a resource trajectory includes effects of the resource variables 427 but not time since last visit. Confidence intervals that corresponded to true underlying 428 effects should exclude zero and vice versa. However, by definition, an α -level hypothesis 429 test results in a Type I error of α , which we expected to observe approximately in this 430 analysis. Additionally, we expected a Type II error to occur, where a confidence interval 431 included zero, although the corresponding covariate had an effect. We compared the 432 outcome of this method with the results from model selection via BIC. 433

We performed all simulations of movement trajectories and statistical analyses in R (R Core team, 2013), using additionally package 'dclone' (Solymos, 2010). To generate MCMC samples, we used JAGS via the R package 'rjags' (Plummer, 2013).

437 Simulation results

Here, we present results for data generated with the main set of parameters θ_1 (Fig. 3). Results for supplemental data generated by additional sets of parameters can be found in Appendix B.2.1.

Of all 80 model fits (four models fitted to 20 trajectories each), 80% had potential 441 scale reduction factor $0.9 \leq \hat{R} \leq 1.1$ for all model parameters. In the remaining model 442 fits, at least one parameter had $\hat{R} > 1.1$ (Fig. 4). Convergence or mixing problems never 443 occurred when the null model was fitted to a trajectory, even if the trajectory had a 444 more complex underlying mechanism. Large \hat{R} values only occurred if the fitted model 445 contained parameters that were inapplicable to the model that was used to generate the 446 trajectory. This was the case when any of the more complex models was fitted to a null 447 trajectory, when the combination model was fitted to a resource or memory trajectory, 448 or when the memory model was fitted to a resource trajectory and vice versa. In these 449 model fits, the non-convergent parameters were mainly those that did not correspond 450 to true underlying covariate effects. However, when in a model fit problems occurred 451 for multiple parameters, occasionally even applicable parameters failed to converge. In 452 matching model fits, Markov chains always mixed well and converged. For more details 453 on convergence, see Appendix B.3 and B.4. 454

⁴⁵⁵ Our model selection framework was able to correctly identify the true underlying ⁴⁵⁶ model for all trajectories (Fig. 4). When a trajectory had underlying resource or memory ⁴⁵⁷ mechanism, the next best model was always the combination model with Δ BIC being ⁴⁵⁸ a magnitude smaller than for the alternatives. This pattern was only disturbed if the ⁴⁵⁹ combination model experienced convergence problems and was therefore excluded from ⁴⁶⁰ further analysis.

Parameter estimates in matching model fits agreed well with true underlying parameter values. Parameter estimates generally were both close to and balanced around their true values (Fig. 5). 95% confidence intervals (n=115) included the true parameter value 91% of the time. If we also considered results from the supplemental data, 94% of all confidence intervals (n=345) included the true value.

Our hypothesis test as to whether covariates had an effect agreed with our expec-466 tations. The combination model fitted to the 20 trajectories lead to 73 estimates of 467 selection parameters, of which 39 corresponded to true underlying effects. Analyzing 468 their confidence intervals, we obtained a false positive rate (Type I error rate) of 0.09 469 and a false negative rate of zero, i.e. Type II errors did not occur. However, if we also 470 considered the supplemental data and thereby increased the amount of resultant param-471 eter estimates with confidence intervals to a total of 217, we obtained a Type I error rate 472 of 0.04 and again a Type II error rate of 0.09. 473

474 Discussion

In recent years, the link between animal movement and spatial memory has received in-475 creasing attention (Smouse et al., 2010; Fagan et al., 2013). Studies of animal behaviour 476 and cognition have given useful insights into animals' capacities to remember past expe-477 riences and use spatial memory. Most results have been obtained through experiments 478 in confined and synthetic settings. However, to better understand how important eco-479 logical processes such as movement and dispersal are shaped by cognitive processes and 480 memory, we also need to look at animals in their natural environments (Tsoar et al., 481 2011). Understanding the components of individual movement decisions and their inter-482 actions ultimately will help us to predict how population distribution patterns respond 483 to environmental changes, such as landscape fragmentation and changing climate. 484

We have presented a modelling framework that can be used to detect the influence of memorized information on movement decisions. We recognize that in many situations it is difficult to confirm that animals draw upon memorized information instead of momentarily perceived information; however, there is evidence that animals use information that they have obtained during past experiences (Martin-Ordas *et al.*, 2009; Janmaat

et al., 2013). As an example of such information, we use time since last visit to locations. 490 In our model, time since last visit is continuously updated during the movement process 491 and at the same time influences movement decisions. We formulate our models in a 492 way that makes them amenable to likelihood-based statistical inference. This allows us 493 to fit our models to data to test whether the timing of events plays a role for move-494 ment decisions. Fitting the full model (eqn 1), encompassing both general movement 495 tendencies and selective behaviour, to data via the likelihood function (eqn 9) enables 496 simultaneous estimation of parameters of both the general movement kernel and weight-497 ing function. This distinguishes our method from step selection approaches that use an 498 empirical movement kernel to estimate resource selection parameters in a case-control 499 framework (Fortin et al., 2005; Forester et al., 2009). 500

In our definition of the weighting function (eqn 1), we followed the classical for-501 mulation of resource-selection functions and evaluated a movement step based on the 502 information at the endpoint of the step. In the memory model this means that an an-503 imal may cross recently visited locations on its path although these have low weights. 504 Depending on the behaviour of the study species, it may be appropriate to change this 505 so that cognitive map values along the entire path are considered, thus following the idea 506 of step selection functions (Fortin et al., 2005; Potts et al., 2014). In our framework, it 507 is straightforward to define the weighting function as a function not only of x_t but also 508 x_{t-1} and to include any information related to the step from x_{t-1} to x_t . Endpoints are 509 observed locations and therefore have certainly be used. To include information about 510 entire steps, we must make an assumption about which locations were visited between 511 observed locations. In the memory model, we assume this is a straight line, however one 512 may use more sophisticated methods similar to Brownian Bridges (Horne *et al.*, 2007). 513

⁵¹⁴ We used simulated landscapes and movement data to verify the functionality of our

modelling framework and statistical inference method. Adding the memory process 515 to the modelling framework considerably increased model complexity and the amount 516 of data that had to be processed. We were therefore interested in whether we could 517 correctly detect memory effects in empirical movement patterns and whether parameters 518 that describe the memory process and its interactions with other variables were possible 519 to estimate reliably. To perform inference, we used data cloning, which uses MCMC 520 techniques but facilitates frequentist inference. We used the software package JAGS, 521 which allowed us to define models in an easily understandable language and provides 522 a stable implementation of MCMC sampling. JAGS was able to adapt the sampling 523 process successfully so that parameters of very different magnitude could be reliably 524 estimated. However, this came at the cost of long computation times (ranging 0.5-5 525 days per single chain for different models) and high memory needs (ranging 1-5 GB 526 RAM). Alternatively, we could have used conventional numerical maximization of the 527 likelihood function, which in this case may have been faster but at the same time more 528 limited. Because data cloning is based on MCMC, it is amenable to extensions of our 529 model to include partially observed and hidden processes. We have demonstrated this 530 with our example on missed observations. Any Bayesian method would provide this 531 option and it may be a matter of belief whether frequentist of Bayesian approaches are 532 used. However, data cloning additionally provides tools to detect parameter estimability 533 problems (Lele *et al.*, 2010), which was relevant in our analysis; compare Appendix B.3. 534 At this stage, data cloning via JAGS was computationally intense, and it may be worth 535 to explore alternative options, e.g. a 'home made' MCMC sampler in a fast language 536 such as C/C++. Still, with quickly increasing computational capacities and advances in 537 statistical software, we believe that our method has a promising future. 538

⁵³⁹ Verification of our method was successful. In matching model fits, almost all MCMC

runs mixed well and converged. Convergence and mixing problems occurred in non-540 matching model fits and especially for parameters that were not meaningful to the 541 trajectory (e.g. a resource selection parameter for a memory trajectory). For further 542 application of our method, we have given recommendations how to proceed in cases on 543 non-convergent model fits (Appendix B.4). Model selection via BIC successfully iden-544 tified trajectories' true underlying mechanisms, and if parameters in a model fit were 545 applicable to the underlying trajectory, we were able to recover true parameter values. 546 Simulated movement trajectories were samples of stochastic processes, and therefore re-547 alized parameter values were subject to stochasticity. Thus, parameter estimates could 548 not be expected to exactly coincide with the true values. Verifying the functionality 549 of our method was particularly important with respect to the newly introduced mem-550 ory process. We conclude that if time since last visit is a driver of observed movement 551 trajectories, our framework is able to detect this. 552

⁵⁵³ When we compared results from model selection to outcomes of hypothesis tests, we ⁵⁵⁴ found that model selection was better able to distinguish true underlying mechanisms of ⁵⁵⁵ trajectories. By definition, hypothesis tests allow for a Type I error, the size of which is ⁵⁵⁶ influenced by the level of the test. However, decreasing the Type I error simultaneously ⁵⁵⁷ decreases the power to correctly detect effects of covariates and increases the Type II ⁵⁵⁸ error. The model selection framework is not based on this concept, and it proved to be ⁵⁵⁹ more accurate in our analysis.

We have built on the framework of spatially explicit resource-selection models and added the influence of a dynamic memory process on movement decisions by introducing a dynamic cognitive map and linking it with the movement and resource-selection process. The existence of cognitive maps in animals is debated, and there is especially controversy about what form such maps may take, e.g. whether animals use topological

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cognitive maps for landmark-based navigation or whether animals can create and use 565 geometric cognitive maps that preserve angles and distances between locations (Bennett, 566 1996; Asensio et al., 2011; Collett et al., 2013). This debate also includes the question 567 whether spatial information in the brain is encoded with respect to the position of the 568 viewer, i.e. egocentrically, or independently of the position of the viewer, i.e. allocen-569 trically (Yeap, 2014). In our models we do not focus on navigational mechanisms but 570 decision making processes, and we use the cognitive map as a useful mathematical tool 571 to model spatial information. Investigation of different navigational mechanisms within 572 a model-selection framework similar to that presented here could be the goal of future 573 research. With our model formulation in terms of a cognitive map, we have provided 574 a general framework for linking movement with information use and acquisition. We 575 emphasize that within this general formulation, a variety of more specific formulations 576 of cognitive maps can be realized, tailored to the situations and behavioural processes 577 of interest. 578

In our candidate models, we have used time since last visit to locations as an example 579 of a form of dynamic information that is mediated by the cognitive map. We have 580 demonstrated how the time since last visit to a location can shape the movement process, 581 either on their own or in interaction with environmental variables. Such behaviours 582 can, for instance, occur when animals patrol their home ranges for defence purposes, 583 when predators counteract behavioural depression, or when animals rely on resources 584 that vary in their availability due to depletion. However, our modelling framework 585 and its elements are flexible and can be extended to include other forms of dynamic 586 information and experiences that animals collect during their movement. For instance, 587 while animals travel they may gather information about seasonally available resources. 588 Observations of Mangabeys show evidence that they remember fruiting statuses of fig 580

⁵⁹⁰ trees and use this information to predict the fruiting status of those trees at later times ⁵⁹¹ (Janmaat *et al.*, 2013). Prey species can use their movement to collect information about ⁵⁹² the distribution of predators. Such information can enable prey to reduce costly anti-⁵⁹³ predatory behaviours and therefore outweigh attack risks connected to the information ⁵⁹⁴ collection. This has been suggested to explain movement behaviour of caribou towards ⁵⁹⁵ wolf paths (Latombe *et al.*, 2014).

Although our models describe movement behaviour of individual animals, the ideas 596 we have presented can also apply to other systems. A specific feature of our models is 597 the interaction between a movement process and an information, or memory, process. 598 A similar dynamic interplay can arise on a larger scale when a species disperses and ex-590 pands its range. While moving into a new environment, the dispersing species might alter 600 the environment and its species composition, which in turn could affect the dispersing 601 species (Gilman et al., 2010). Such processes could be analyzed with the same mathe-602 matical ideas and modelling tools as we have presented here. Thus, we have presented 603 a powerful modelling approach to identify spatial memory and dynamic information as 604 drivers of movement decisions, and our framework and its elements promise a wide range 605 of applications within movement ecology. 606

Acknowledgements

We thank Jonathan Potts and Andrew Bateman for helpful discussions and feedback on the manuscript. We are grateful to the editor and anonymous reviewers, whose comments have greatly improved our manuscript. UES was supported by an iCORE Graduate Student Scholarship (iCORE is now part of Alberta Innovates-Technology Futures), a Pacific Institute of Mathematical Sciences International Graduate Training Centre fellowship, and funding from the Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences at the University of Alberta. MAL gratefully acknowledges Natural Sciences
and Engineering Research Council Discovery and Accelerator grants, a Canada Research
Chair and a Killam Research Fellowship.

617 Data Accessibility

R scripts to perform statistical analyses, simulated data (examples), and JAGS model definitions can be found in the online supporting information.

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756 Supporting Information

- ⁷⁵⁷ Additional Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this article:
- Appendix A Supplemental methods & Appendix B Supplemental results
- Appendix C Animated trajectories
- R and JAGS code, simulated data example

761 Figures





Fig. 1. Example trajectories from the four candidate models, 100 steps long, with 763 starting location marked by a green box and final location marked by a blue triangle. 764 All trajectories are plotted on top of an example resource selection function 765 $w(x; \alpha, \beta) = \left[1 + \exp\left(-\alpha - \beta_1 r_1(\boldsymbol{x}) - \beta_2 r_2(\boldsymbol{x})\right)\right]^{-1}$ generated from two resources r_1 766 and r_2 . The null model does not consider resource information and therefore the null 767 trajectory visits locations irrespective of the resource selection function. The memory 768 model does not consider resource information either, however, the animal avoids 769 recently visited locations and is attracted to locations with long time since last visit. 770 Therefore, the memory trajectory efficiently explores the spatial domain in a patrolling 771 fashion. In contrast, the resource trajectory mainly remains in areas where the resource 772 selection function has high values. The combination trajectory shows a mixture of 773 behaviours from the resource and the memory model. The trajectories were generated 774 using the first landscape pair and main parameter set from the simulation study; 775 compare Fig. 3 and Appendix A.1. 776



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Fig. 2. In the memory model, the weight $w_t(\boldsymbol{x})$ of a location \boldsymbol{x} depends on time since last visit $m_{t-1}(\boldsymbol{x})$ to that location. Locations that have been visited recently have low weights and are thus avoided. A weight of 0.5 is attained when $m_{t-1}(\boldsymbol{x}) = -\frac{\alpha}{\beta}$ (dotted vertical line).



Fig. 3. Overview of data simulation and model fitting. For a set of parameter values,
we generated trajectories using all four candidate models. Using each model, we
simulated trajectories on five different landscapes resulting in 20 trajectories. Each
trajectory was then fitted with all four models, leading to a total of 80 model fits.



Fig. 4. Each column shows model selection results for one simulated trajectory when fitted with the null (N), resource (R), memory (M) and combination(C) model. For each trajectory, we calculated BIC values for the four fitted models, and the figure shows differences in BIC with respect to the minimal BIC value, i.e. the model with minimal BIC has Δ BIC = 0. We excluded model fits with non-convergent MCMC. Triangles indicate trajectories for which we calculated estimability diagnostics; Appendix B.3.



Fig. 5. Parameter estimates and their 95% confidence intervals for matching model fits (each trajectory fitted with the same model that was used to generate the trajectory). Both parameter estimates and Wald-type confidence intervals are scaled by the true parameter values (TV): $\kappa = 5.5$, $\lambda = 1.6$, $\rho = 1$, $\alpha_{\rm res} = -1$, $\alpha_{\rm mem} = -4$, $\alpha_{\rm com} = -5$, $\beta_1 = 1$, $\beta_2 = 2$, $\beta_{\rm mem} = 0.03$, $\gamma_1 = 0.01$, $\gamma_2 = 0.05$.