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1 Introduction

The purpose of the AVADECAF simulation tool is to assess the power of a given PAM survey to detect a change in animal density (given specific survey and species parameters).

The user can specify different survey parameters such as the number of PAM units and the number of localising PAM units, how long the survey is conducted for, how often density estimates are obtained from the data etc. As well as these, the user can specify various parameters related to the vocal behaviour of the species of interest including vocalisation (cue) rate, perception bias, detection function, false positive rate etc.

The purpose of this helpfile is to guide the user through how to set up the software required (R and R studio) to run the tool, how to change parameters within the tool and how to interpret the outputs from the simulations.

Given there are a number of complex steps in this helpfile, we recommend you turn on the Navigation Pane (under ‘View’ in Word) to aide you as you move between sections.

In addition, to guide the user we have added in a series of internal hyperlinks to help the user step back and forth through the report as required. These are indicated by a blue box with bold text in it. To use the hyperlink you will need to press ‘Ctrl’ on the keyboard whilst you click the link (in Word).

In addition there are number of key pieces of information in this guide. We have marked each of these in red text and they should not be ignored as it may affect your ability to move through this helpfile successfully.

2 The “AVADECAF_Tool” Folder

In order to run the simulation tool you will require a copy of the “AVADECAF_Tool” folder. This contains the following files:

- All libraries required (folder)
- DSsim (folder)
- Algorithm_DS.r
- Algorithm_SECR.r
- Parameters_DS.r
Navigate on your computer to the C drive. We recommend you create a folder called RRun. Copy the “AVADECAF_Tool” folder provided and paste it in the RRun folder you just created.

Within the “AVADECAF_Tool” folder there are files that should be edited by the user and some files that should NOT be edited by the user.

### 3 Installing R

**Note:** This simulation tool has been tested with R version 3.3.2 and specific libraries (see below). We cannot guarantee it will be compatible with other versions. If, at the time of installing R onto your computer a newer version has been released, we recommend you install version 3.3.2 to ensure compatibility with the R script. This can be done through the link: [https://cran.r-project.org/bin/windows/base/old/](https://cran.r-project.org/bin/windows/base/old/)

**Windows users:** The latest version of R can be downloaded from: [https://cran.r-project.org/bin/windows/base/](https://cran.r-project.org/bin/windows/base/)

**Mac users:** [https://cran.r-project.org/bin/macosx/](https://cran.r-project.org/bin/macosx/)

Click on the Download link at the top of the page to download the .exe file

Open the .exe file.

1. This will open a new window called **Setup – R for Windows**. Click Next > to start the installation process.
2. GNU General Public License information will then appear. Click Next >
3. When prompted to select the destination location it should automatically select the following: C:\Program Files\R\. If not, browse to this location. Click Next >
4. When prompted to select components make sure all boxes are ticked (Core Files, 32-bit Files, 64-bit Files and Message translations). Click Next >
5. When prompted to customize startup options select No (accept defaults). Click Next >
6. When prompted to select the start menu folder accept the automatic R shortcut. Click Next>
7. When prompted to select additional tasks tick the following box: associate R with .RData files. Click Next>
8. R will then install on your computer
9. Click Finish to exit setup
4 Installing RStudio

Disclaimer: This simulation tool has been tested with RStudio version 0.99.903. We cannot guarantee it will be compatible with other versions. If, at the time of installing RStudio onto your computer a newer version has been released, we recommend you install version 0.99.903 to ensure compatibility with the R script. This can be done through the link: https://support.rstudio.com/hc/en-us/articles/206569407-Older-Versions-of-RStudio

RStudio is an integrated development environment for R. For the novice or less experienced R user, RStudio is often considered to be a much more user friendly programme to use than R itself. RStudio works by running alongside R and it simply provides a more user friendly interface to work from. Therefore, you cannot run RStudio without having R installed on your computer.

The latest version of RStudio can be downloaded from: https://www.rstudio.com/products/rstudio/download/

Click on the Installer link for Windows Vista/7/8/10 to download the .exe file

Open the .exe file.

1. This will open a new window called Setup – RStudio Setup. Click Next > to start the installation process
2. When prompted to select the destination location it should automatically select the following: C:\Program Files\RStudio. If not, browse to this location. Click Next >
3. When prompted to select the start menu folder accept the automatic RStudio shortcut. Click Install
4. RStudio will then install on your computer
5. Click Finish to exit setup.

If for any reason you have multiple versions of R installed on your computer, you can specify which R version you wish to run in RStudio. This is done by opening RStudio and selecting Tools > Global Options:
Ensure that R version 3.3.2 is selected to ensure compatibility with the R script.
5 Installing R Packages

Packages are the fundamental units of reproducible R code. They include reusable R functions, the documentation that describes how to use them and sample data. The packages necessary to run this simulation tool are listed in the file Libraries.r provided in the “AVADECAF_Tool” folder.

Disclaimer: This simulation tool has been tested with the following package versions. We cannot guarantee this simulation tool will be compatible with other versions. We recommend you install the version listed below to ensure compatibility with the R script.

- Package: shapefiles Version: 0.7
- Package: chron Version: 2.3-47
- Package: splancs Version: 2.01-39
- Package: mrds Version: 2.1.16
- Package: optimx Version: 2013.8.7
- Package: numDeriv Version: 2014.2-1
- Package: mgcv Version: 1.8-12
- Package: Rsolnp Version: 1.16
- Package: rmarkdown Version: 1.0
- Package: knitr Version: 1.14.11
- Package: printr Version 0.0.6
- Package: secr

It is possible that these versions listed above are older versions than the current versions available on the CRAN library.

There are 2 ways to install all required packages and dependencies

1) Use the files provided in the “AVADECAF_Tool” folder (this is the easiest way)

2) Install packages and specific versions yourself through RStudio (proficient R users may prefer to do it in this way)

5.1 Installing packages from the “AVADECAF_Tool” folder

All packages that the tool requires are included in the “AVADECAF_Tool” folder in the folder called “All libraries required”.

Navigate to the win-library on your computer. This is located at Documents\R\win-library\3.3 (Note: this is the folder name even when you install version 3.3.2 as specified above). Copy all library folders from the folder “All libraries required” in the “AVADECAF_Tool” folder, and paste them into the 3.3 folder in the win-library on your computer:
5.2 Installing packages in RStudio

You can specify what version of package by installing package ‘devtools’ in RStudio.

1. Open RStudio
2. Go into Tool>Install Packages> and enter devtools:

3. Tick the box to Install dependencies
4. Click Install
5. This will then download, unpack and check the package and all dependencies.
Copy and paste the following blue text into the Console window in order to install the correct versions of the packages:

```r
require(devtools)
install_version('shapefiles', version='0.7', repros="http://cran.us.r-project.org")
install_version('chron', version='2.3-47', repros="http://cran.us.r-project.org")
install_version('splancs', version='2.01-39', repros="http://cran.us.r-project.org")
install_version('mrds', version='2.1.16', repros="http://cran.us.r-project.org")
install_version('optimx', version='2013.8.7', repros="http://cran.us.r-project.org")
install_version('numDeriv', version='2014.2-1', repros="http://cran.us.r-project.org")
install_version('mgcv', version='1.8-12', repros="http://cran.us.r-project.org")
install_version('Rsolnp', version='1.16', repros="http://cran.us.r-project.org")
install_version('rmarkdown', version='1.0', repros="http://cran.us.r-project.org")
install_version('knitr', version='1.14', repros="http://cran.us.r-project.org")
install.packages('printr', type = 'source', repos = c('http://yihui.name/xran', 'http://cran.rstudio.com'))
```

Next you need to put the package DSsim on your computer. Do **NOT** install this like the other packages above. In the folder “FinalTool” provided, there is a folder called DSsim. Copy the entire DSsim folder. Navigate on your computer to: Documents\win-library\3.3 (Note: this is the folder name even when you install version 3.3.2 as specified above). Paste the DSsim folder into this documents library Documents\win-library\3.3 alongside the other packages and dependencies that have been installed.
You can check the versions of all packages and dependencies installed on your computer by:

1. Opening RStudio
2. Typing the following code into the console: `installed.packages()`

This will then list all packages installed on your computer along with information on where the package is stored (LibPath) and what version is installed:
If the version listed does not match one of the versions listed as tested above, then we recommend you install the version listed above to ensure compatibility with the R script.
6 Organising folders

We highly recommend that you create a separate folder for each different simulation you run. This avoids the problem of R overwriting any previously saved files. This is easy to accidentally do and so we recommend keeping separate folders for each simulation and a record of how each simulation differs to the others you have run.

For example:

- Simulation1 – could have a cue rate of 1000 and a spacing of 7.5
- Simulation2 – could have a cue rate of 2000 and a spacing of 7.5
- Simulation3 – could have a cue rate of 2000 and a spacing of 15
- Etc...

We recommend maintaining a pristine copy of the tool code. To create new folders, copy and paste the “AVADECAF_Tool” folder and re-name it something sensible that relates to the simulation you are running e.g. FinalTool_Simulation1
The simulation files

Within the “AVADECAF_Tool” folder there are files that should be edited by the user and some files that should NOT be edited by the user.

7.1 script.R

This is the main control centre for the tool. It pulls in the other files in the correct sequence in order to run the tool.

7.2 Parameters_DS.R and Parameters_SECR.R

This is where the user specifies all the survey design parameters and the vocalisation parameters for the species of interest.

The survey design parameters include: the number of PAM units and the number of localising PAM units, how long the survey is conducted for, how often density estimates are obtained from the data etc.
The vocalisation parameters include: vocalisation (cue) rate, perception bias, detection function, false positive rate etc.

7.3 Simulation_functions_DS.R and Simulation_functions_SECR.R

This file specifies the functions that will be used in the file “Algorithm” in order for the tool to run. It checks the survey and vocalisation parameters that the user has specified in “parameters” and returns error messages if any of the parameters have been incorrectly set.

The user should NOT edit this file at all.

7.4 Algorithm.R

This is the file that runs the simulation. It pulls in the values that the user has specified in “parameters”.

The user should NOT edit this file at all.
Navigate to C:\RRun. Open the simulation folder that you wish to work on eg: FinalTool_Simulation1

Double click on the R file script.r. This will open the R file in the script window in RStudio.

8.1 **Set the working directory**

Click on the tab Session then Set Working Directory then Choose Directory and browse to the RRun folder on the C drive. Select the simulation folder you are working on eg: “FinalTool_Simulation1” and click Select Folder.

The following text will appear in the Console in RStudio:

```
> setwd("C:/RRun/FinalTool_Simulation1")
```
This means that from now on, all files that R accesses will be from this FinalTool_Simulation1 folder.

We are now going to go through the steps in the file `script.r`. This will involve some moving between sections of this helpfile in order to set up the different files that are read into `script.r` or to check an output file. When you need to move to a different section then an instruction box like this will direct you.

8.2 **Name your analysis**

This allows you to give your simulation a name. This should be set as something clear that you can come back to and understand. All files produced from this simulation will bear this name so it is important to choose it sensibly.

For example, perhaps you wish to change the density of animals to 50 but keep all other parameters the same as the baseline/default. For this we would recommend naming your analysis something like:

```
sim.name <- "Density50"
```

Highlight this line of code and click run.

If you are running many simulations with different parameters, we’d recommend maintaining a spreadsheet with all of your key settings and parameter values (and your names corresponding to each folder). We have provided an Excel template for this (simulations and parameters.xls).

8.3 **Choose an analysis method**

This code can do 2 types of simulations:

- "DS" – which uses Distance sampling as the analysis method
• "SECR" – which uses a Spatially Explicit Capture Recapture approach.

If you are doing DS then change the code to read: `method = "DS"`

If you are doing SECR then change the code to read: `method = "SECR"

Highlight this line of code and click run.

NOTE: The different analysis methods apply to different PAM circumstances (deployments/species), therefore the user should refer to the main report before running this.

NOTE: These two analysis methods are very different and also incur very different run times (that is, how long a simulation takes to run). For example, a typical run length for a DS (Distance) simulation is 20-60mins (this will depend on your parameters and RAM on your computer), whereas a typical SECR (spatially explicit capture re-capture) simulation takes approximately 40-50 hours on a normal laptop when running 3 cores.

8.4 Load the functions

Make sure the correct function file is being read in.

If you are doing DS then change the code to read: `source('Simulation_functions_DS.R')`

If you are doing SECR then change the code to read: `source('Simulation_functions_SECR.R')`

Highlight this line of code and click run.
8.5 Set the parameters

Make sure the correct parameters file is being read in:

If you are doing DS then change the code to read: `source('Parameters_DS.R')`

If you are doing SECR then change the code to read: `source('Parameters_SECR.R')`

You will now need to go to section 9 Parameters_DS.r for instructions on how to set the survey design and vocalisation parameters.

Once you have set up the parameters file with survey design and vocalisation parameters, you should highlight this line of code in script.R and click run. Only do this once you have set your parameters.

8.6 Check the parameters

Only do this once you have set your parameters.

This will run a short set of code that checks the survey design and vocalisation parameters that you have set in Parameters_DS (or Parameters_SECR). As is described further in section 9 Parameters_DS.r, there are certain parameters that have set upper and lower bounds for the values.
For example: cue rate cannot be a negative value, perception bias must be between 0 and 1 and error must be between 0-100 etc. This parameter.check will highlight if there are any values set in the parameters that are out of bounds for the simulation.

**Highlight this line of code and click run.** This usually takes a few minutes to run.

![Parameter check in RStudio](image)

While the parameter.check is running you will see this in the RStudio console:

![RStudio console output](image)

One the parameter.check has run the red STOP symbol will disappear and it will produce a line of code in the RStudio Console that says it has created new output files. For example:

![RStudio console output](image)

This means that there are new files in your simulation folder:
8.7 Load the algorithm and run the simulation

This line of code pulls in the values that the user has specified in “parameters” and runs the simulation. Only do this once you have set and checked your parameters.

Make sure the correct Algorithm file is being read in.

- If you are doing SECR then change the code to read: `source('Algorithm_SECR.R')`
- If you are doing DS then change the code to read: `source('Algorithm_DS.R')`

**WARNING:** Since Algorithm is the code that actually runs the simulation, it can take anywhere between tens of minutes to several hours or even days to run, depending on the parameter values set and the processing power of the computer.

While the Algorithm file is running the simulation, the following will appear in the RStudio Console. The red STOP symbol means that the simulation is busy running.
If you need to stop the simulation, then click the red STOP button. But after you do that it is essential that you run the following line of code:

```r
stopCluster(cl)
```

Note: you do not need to run this code if the code ran successfully, only if you manually stopped it.

8.8 **Get the results**

Only do this once algorithm has finished running the simulation.

This will export the results of the simulation.

Highlight these 3 lines of code and click run.

This will create an .html file with the outputs in your simulation folder:
You have now finished with script.r. Please go to section 11 Outputs to check the outputs of the simulation.
9 Parameters_DS.r

There are 301 lines of code in Parameters_DS.r. Most of these are instructions and lines of code that the user should NOT alter. Instructions and explanations are shown in green and preceded by a # in the code files.

This section of the helpfile is going to walk through how to set up a basic simulation model. This basic simulation model does not allow for changes in the parameters (such as density, cue rate etc) by year or season nor does it add hotspot areas to the survey region.

Modifications to the simulation tool to include these additional layers of information can be found later in this document in the section: More complex models.

To run the basic simulation model the following lines of code need to be changed by the user:

9.1 n.cl

Computers have multiple cores of memory available for processing. In order to decrease the time taken to run the simulation, the user can use parallel computing. This makes use of multiple cores on the computer and sets the cores running the code simultaneously. The higher the number of cores used the faster the simulation will run; however less memory will available on the computer for other processes at the same time.

First you need to enter the following code to find out how many cores your computer has:

```r
> detectCores()
[1] 4
```

This output states that the computer has 4 cores.

It is recommended that the user should leave 1 or 2 cores available for other processes on the computer. Therefore in this instance, it is recommended that the number of cores to be used to 2. This is done by changing the lines of code so that it reads:

```
n.cl = 2
```

If you have changed all parameters you wish to change then return to section 8.5 Set the parameters to continue with the script.R file to run the simulation.
9.2 computer

This allows you to change the name of the computer you are working on. It is a good idea to keep track of what simulations were run on what computer for later reference. The default code reads computer=“squid” as Squid is the name of the supercomputer at CREEM where this code was created and tested. You should change this to something relevant to your computer. For example:

```r
computer = "JIP_laptop"
```

If you have changed all parameters you wish to change then return to section 8.5 Set the parameters to continue with the script.R file to run the simulation.

9.3 n.sim

This sets the number of simulation runs for power analysis. 1000 is the default/recommended minimum number of iterations for each simulation.

*It is recommended that you first test the code with 10 iterations, for example, before setting it up to run 1000 iterations. This way it will run 10 iterations pretty quickly so that you can see if there are any errors in the code. The last thing you want is to set up the computer to run 1000 iterations overnight and come back in the morning to an error message and no results!*

If you have changed all parameters you wish to change then return to section 8.5 Set the parameters to continue with the script.R file to run the simulation.

9.4 n.yrs

This sets the number of years that the survey is conducted for. This is set to 10 as the default. We recommend that you keep it at 10.

*It is worth noting that your power to detect a change will increase with increasing survey years; however it will also take longer for the model to run. For example:*

```r
n.yrs <- 10 will take approximately half as long to run as n.yrs <- 20
```
If you have changed all parameters you wish to change then return to section 8.5 Set the parameters to continue with the script.R file to run the simulation.

9.5 \textit{n.seas} & \textit{season.days}

These parameters set the number of times a year that your data are examined to obtain a density value (\textit{n.seas}) and the number of survey days within each season (\textit{season.days}).

The maximum value for \textit{season.days} is 365. E.g. \textit{season.days} = c(rep(1,90), rep(2,92), rep(3,92), rep(4,91)) \text{ (90+92+92+91=365).}

However, \textit{season.days} does not have to equal 365. For example, you could survey for only 6 months of the year, so that your \textit{season.days} value = 182 e.g. \textit{season.days} = c(rep(1,90), rep(2,92)).

If you survey year round (365 days) but only obtain a density value once per year then:
- \textit{n.seas}<1
- \textit{season.days} = c(rep(1,365))
- Here you have 1 density value a year (n.seas=1) and that one n.seas is 365 days long.

If you survey year round (365 days) but obtain a density value every 6 months then:
- \textit{n.seas}<2
- \textit{season.days} = c(rep(1,183), rep(2,182))
- Here you have 2 density values a year (n.seas=2), where one n.seas is 183 days long and the second n.seas is 182 days long.

If you survey year round but obtain a density value every quarter then:
- \textit{n.seas}<4
- \textit{season.days} = c(rep(1,90), rep(2,92), rep(3,92), rep(4,91))
- Here you have 4 density values a year (n.seas=4), where one n.seas is 90 days long, the second n.seas is 92 days long, the third n.seas is 92 days long and the fourth n.seas is 91 days long.

If you survey year round but obtain a density value 12 times a year (monthly) then:
- \textit{n.seas}<12
- \textit{season.days} = c(rep(1,31), rep(2,28), rep(3,31), rep(4,30), rep(5,31 ), rep(6,30), rep(7,31), rep(8,31), rep(9,30), rep(10,31), rep(11,30 ), rep(12,31))
You can specify the code so that a season (such as Winter) can start in December and end in February and so is split over two years. For this the code would look like:

```
season.days = c(rep(1,59), rep(2,92), rep(3,92), rep(4,91), rep(1,31))
```

- Season 1 starts on Jan 1st and runs for a total of 59 days ending on Feb 28th.
- Season 2 starts on March 1st and runs for a total of 92 days ending on May 31st.
- Season 3 starts on June 1st and runs for a total of 92 days ending on Aug 31st.
- Season 4 starts on Sept 1st and runs for a total of 91 days ending on Nov 30th.
- Season 1 starts on Dec 1st and runs for a total of 31 days ending on Dec 31st.
- This gives a total of 365 days (the code does not account for a leap year)

Season 1 is listed twice because the entire season (eg: winter in the UK) runs between December and February and so is split between years.

9.6 `time`

This sets the amount of time that is surveyed in a single day in seconds.

The default is constant 24hour monitoring (86,400 seconds per day):

```
time <- 24 * 60 * 60
```

This can be adjusted depending on the duty cycle of the PAM unit.

It doesn’t matter how you specify the duty cycle.

For example: to record only 12 hours a day (43,200 sec) you can enter:

```
time <- 12 * 60 * 60
time <- 24 * 30 * 60
time <- 24 * 60 * 30
```

If you have changed all parameters you wish to change then return to section 8.5 Set the parameters to continue with the script.R file to run the simulation.
9.7 \textit{x.dim & y.dim}

This allows you to set the size of the survey region. This can ONLY be a square or a rectangle. Set the x and y dimensions (in km) of the survey region as follows:

For a survey region that is 30 km by 60 km the code should read:
\begin{verbatim}
x.dim <- 30
y.dim <- 60
\end{verbatim}

9.8 \textit{w}

This is the truncation distance in km. This is the furthest distance in km from the PAM unit where the animal can be detected. For example, beaked whales are detectable out to 12 km. A different species may be detectable out to 50 km.

The default in the code is for beaked whales which detectable out to 12 km from the PAM unit:
\begin{verbatim}
w <- 12
\end{verbatim}

The exact value here is not crucial and there is no penalty for specifying a truncation distance that is too large in the simulation.

9.9 \textit{spacing}

Within the survey region there will be a certain number of PAM units. In the code a PAM unit is referred to as a “transect” or a “node”. This is based on distance sampling terminology where a PAM unit would be a point transect sample.

These are divided into 2 types of PAM units:

1. \textit{Transects} are PAM units that are capable of detecting a vocalisation but cannot localise it.
2. **Fancy nodes** are PAM units that are capable of both detecting a vocalisation and measuring the range to that vocalisation.

In order to randomly place the PAM units within the survey region we use the DSsim package. What this means in practice is that we cannot tell the code the number of PAM units we want to place in the survey region. Instead we tell the code what the spacing is between PAM units. For example, a spacing of 7.5 will place 32 PAM units in a survey region that is 30x60 km.

You can check the number of PAM units and fancy nodes placed in the study region when you run `parameter.check.DS()` in the script file.

```
If you have changed all parameters you wish to change then return to section 8.5 Set the parameters to continue with the script.R file to run the simulation.
```

9.10 **nested.space**

The nested space describes how the fancy nodes are spread out throughout the survey region.

What it means is “how far (in terms of PAM units) do I have to move in x and y space before I reach a fancy node?”.

If **all** PAM units are fancy nodes then the nested space is 1 because you have to move 1 unit in x or y space from one fancy node to get to the next fancy node:

```
nested.space <- c(1)
```

If every other PAM unit is a fancy node then the nested space is 2 because you have to move 2 units in x or y space from one fancy node to get to the next fancy node:

```
nested.space <- c(2)
```

Nested Space = 3 means you have to move 3 units in x or y space from one fancy node to get to the next fancy node:

```
nested.space <- c(3)
```
You can check the number of PAM units and fancy nodes placed in the study region when you run `parameter.check.DS()` in the script file.

If you have changed all parameters you wish to change then return to section 8.5 Set the parameters to continue with the script.R file to run the simulation.

### 9.11 \textit{sigma1}

This contributes to setting the detection function parameters.

Sigma is the scale parameter of the half-normal detection function which, together with the truncation distance (w), defines the average detection probabilities.

For smaller values of sigma your probability of detection decreases rapidly with distance.

![Figure 1](image.png)

\textit{Figure 1} Four examples of a half-normal detection function, each with a different scale (sigma) parameter.
9.12 \textbf{sigma.cv}

This sets the variance around the detection function. Sigma.cv lets the detection function vary across the study region.

![Graph showing the effect of sigma.cv on detection functions](image)

Figure 2 Examples of how an increase in sigma.cv affects the variability in detection functions in simulations for a default value of sigma = 2. For each plot, sigma is the same but the sigma.cv varies between 10\% - 90\% (i.e. 0.1 - 0.9).

9.13 \textbf{error}

The systematic error is a systematic distance bias in the detected distances.

Systematic distance bias is error that occurs when the estimated distances to cues are always overestimated (or always underestimated) as can happen with factors related to, but not limited to, temperature and salinity affecting sound speed profiles, sound refracting properties associated with a particular location, background and/or sensor-specific errors.

The default in the code is no systematic error in the distances:

```r
error <- NULL
```

Systematic bias is implemented in the simulation by adding or subtracting a distance to each cue that is a percentage of the ‘true’ localisation distances. The magnitude of the systematic bias can be specified by the user as a percentage multiplier on the cue distance estimate.
Systematic error is expressed as a percentage of the detection distance and so can range from 0-100.

For example:

- if your estimated detection distance was 100m and your error was 10 then your actual detection distance is between 90 and 110m (100±10%).
- If your estimated detection distance was 400m and your error was 10 then your actual detection distance is between 360 and 440m (400±10%).

NOTE: Systematic and random error will introduce variability and bias to the system which will decrease power and decrease accuracy in estimating animal densities and hence, in estimating trends in densities.

It is HIGHLY unrealistic to run a simulation with error <- NULL as there will always be error in the detected distances. We recommend changing the error value to at least 10: \texttt{error <- 10}

If you have changed all parameters you wish to change then return to section 8.5 Set the parameters to continue with the script.R file to run the simulation.

9.14 \texttt{error.spread}

Random error occurs when the distances are measured with low precision and can be over-or underestimated.

The default in the code is no random error in the distances:

\texttt{error.spread <- NULL}

Random error is expressed as a proportion of the detection distance and so can range from 0-1.

NOTE: Systematic and random error will introduce variability and bias to the system which will decrease power and decrease accuracy in estimating animal densities and hence, in estimating trends in densities.

It is HIGHLY unrealistic to run a simulation with error.spread <- NULL as there will always be error in your detection distances. We recommend changing the error.spread value to at least 0.1: \texttt{error.spread <- 0.1}
9.15 $d_1$

This sets the average density of animals in the survey region expressed as the number of animals per km$^2$.

If the density of animals in your survey region is 50 animals per km$^2$ then the code gets changed to:

$$d_1 \leftarrow \frac{50}{1000}$$

9.16 decline

This sets the annual exponential decline in density. The default is set to 0.05 which means there is a decline in the density of 5% per year.

You can make this higher or lower.

- a 10% decline would be $\text{decline} \leftarrow 0.10$
- a 2% decline would be $\text{decline} \leftarrow 0.02$

You can set this to zero if you want no annual exponential decline in density.

9.17 $c_1$

This is the average cue production rate for the species of interest in your study region, given as the number of cues produced per second. You can change this value to whatever cue production rate per second you want.
For example, if my species produced 1.5 cues per seconds the code would read:

```r
c1 <- 1.5
```
c1 must be >0.

9.18 \texttt{c.cv}

This is the Coefficient of Variation (CV) for the cue production rate.

\texttt{c.cv} must be between 0 and 1.

Since the cue rate will be an estimated value (ie: obtained from the literature) then it will have an associated precision value. This is often the coefficient of variation (CV). Sometimes the literature may present other precision values such as standard deviation or standard error. Here is how you can convert them to CV:

- Standard Deviation: divide the standard deviation by the mean to get the CV.
- Standard error: multiply the standard error by the square root of the sample size to get the standard deviation. Then divide the standard deviation by the mean to get the CV.

Be careful when you set \texttt{c.cv} that you do not put a CV around \texttt{c1} that makes \texttt{c1} <0.

For example, if you have a cue rate of 0.1 then do not put \texttt{c.cv}<0.3 as it the model will try (in at least some of the 1,000 simulations) to put a \texttt{c1} value of 0.1-0.3=-0.2 – which is not a valid value for \texttt{c1}.

If you enter a value that cannot run this will appear as an error message in the Parameter Check. You will see a message that says:

"Your cue rates c all need to be larger than 0"
9.19 \textit{a1}

This is the perception bias. One of the assumptions in distance sampling is that all animals at the transect are detected with certainty. In PAM surveys this assumption is violated if an animal is present at the transect (PAM unit) but not vocalising, or it is present at the transect (PAM unit) but oriented away from the PAM unit in such a way that vocalisations are missed by the PAM unit. Therefore the value being entered here is the proportion of animals detected at the transect. For example, if 65\% of the animals present at the transect are detected then the code should read:

\texttt{a1 <- c(0.65)}

\texttt{a1} must be between 0 and 1.

If you have changed all parameters you wish to change then return to section 8.5 Set the parameters to continue with the script.R file to run the simulation.

9.20 \textit{a.cv}

This is the Coefficient of Variation (CV) for the perception bias.

\texttt{a.cv} must be between 0 and 1.

Since the perception bias will be an estimated value (ie: obtained from the literature) then it will have an associated precision value. This is often the coefficient of variation (CV). Sometimes the literature may present other precision values such as standard deviation or standard error. Here is how you can convert them to CV:

- Standard Deviation: divide the standard deviation by the mean to get the CV.
- Standard error: multiply the standard error by the square root of the sample size to get the standard deviation. Then divide the standard deviation by the mean to get the CV.

Be careful when you set \texttt{a.cv} that you do not put a CV around \texttt{a1} that makes it a value that is not between 0 and 1.

For example, if you have a perception bias of 0.8 then do not put \texttt{a.cv<-0.3} as it the model will try (in at least some of the 1000 simulations) to put an \texttt{a1} value of 0.8+0.3=1.1 – which is not a valid value for \texttt{a1}.
If you enter a value that cannot run this will appear as an error message in the Parameter Check. You will see a message that says:

"Your perception bias a all need to be between 0 and 1"

9.21 f1

This is the false positive rate which is the proportion of detected cues that were not from the species of interest. For example, in PAM surveys for beaked whales, dolphin clicks are often recorded as false positives.

This is the false positive rate. The default value in the code is:

- f1 <- 0.549
- This means that 54.9% of the detections are false positives and the other 45.1% of the vocalisations are correctly classified.

If you are surveying beaked whales while dolphins are also present, and you know that 50% of your detections are false positives (dolphins not beaked whales) then the code should read:

f1 <- 0.5

f1 must be between 0 and 1.

9.22 f.cv

This is the Coefficient of Variation (CV) for the false positive rate.

f.cv must be between 0 and 1.

Since the false positive rate will be an estimated value (ie: obtained from the literature) then it will have an associated precision value. This is often the coefficient of variation (CV). Sometimes the literature may present other precision values. Here is how you can convert them to CV:
- Standard Deviation: divide the standard deviation by the mean to get the CV.
- Standard error: multiply the standard error by the square root of the sample size to get the standard deviation. Then divide the standard deviation by the mean to get the CV.

Be careful when you set f.cv that you do not put a CV around f1 that makes it a value that is not between 0 and 1.

For example, if you have a false positive rate of 0.8 then do not put f.cv<0.3 as it the model will try (in at least some of the 1000 simulations) to put an a1 value of 0.8+0.3=1.1 – which is not a valid value for f1.

If you enter a value that cannot run this will appear as an error message in the Parameter Check. You will see a message that says:

"Your false positive rates f all need to be between 0 and 1"

**If you have reached the end of all the parameters the user should change for a basic model. Please return to section 8.5 Set the parameters to continue with the script.R file to run the simulation.**

## 10 Parameter Check

Go to the folder in RRun that you are working on. There will now be a new .html file:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>File Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>baseline2_ParameterCheck</td>
<td>10/01/2017</td>
<td>Chrome HTML Do...</td>
<td>20 KB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>baseline2_ParameterCheck.md</td>
<td>10/01/2017</td>
<td>MD File</td>
<td>3 KB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>baseline2_ParameterCheck</td>
<td>10/01/2017</td>
<td>RMD File</td>
<td>3 KB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Open this new .html file. This gives you a summary of all the parameters you have specified and highlights if there are any errors with the numbers you have specified:

### 10.1 Check the settings for parallel computing

This tells you how many cores your computer has available and how many you have told it to use for parallel computing:

```
## [1] "Your computer has 4 cores available. You specified to use 2 for parallel computing.
```

### 10.2 Check if all the parameters are specified

This checks to make sure you have entered a value into all necessary parameters.

If there are no messages you passed this step.

If any of the parameters have not been specified then you will get one of the following error messages (depending on which parameter is not specified):

- "Parameter n.cl is not specified"
- "Parameter computer is not specified"
- "Parameter n.sim is not specified"
- "Parameter n.yrs is not specified"
- "Parameter n.seas is not specified"
- "Parameter days is not specified"
- "Parameter time is not specified"
- "Parameter w is not specified"
- "region is not specified"
- "region.withbuffer is not specified"
- "Parameter spacing is not specified"
- "Parameter nested.space is not specified"
- "Parameter sigma is not specified"
- "Parameter sigma.cv is not specified"
- "Parameter grid.based.distance is not specified"
- "Parameter sub.number.of.cues is not specified"
- "Parameter adapted.for.localisation.range is not specified"
- "Parameter max.loc.distance is not specified"
- "Parameter num.bins is not specified"

- "Parameter error is not specified"
- "Parameter error.spread is not specified"
- "Parameter d1 is not specified"
- "Parameter season is not specified"
- "Parameter x.space is not specified"
- "Parameter y.space is not specified"
- "density is not specified"
- "rescaled.density is not specified"
- "Parameter n.cv is not specified"
- "Parameter randomized.decline is not specified"
- "Parameter impact.grid is not specified"
- "Parameter target.decline is not specified"
- "Parameter target is not specified"
- "Parameter c is not specified"
- "Parameter c.cv is not specified"
- "Parameter est.c.yrs.seas is not specified"
- "Parameter c.trials is not specified"
- "Parameter a is not specified"
- "Parameter a.cv is not specified"
"Parameter est.a.yrs.seas is not specified"  "Parameter est.f.yrs.seas is not specified"
"Parameter f is not specified"  "Parameter f.trials is not specified"
"Parameter f.cv is not specified"

10.3 Check if the parameters have the correct dimensions

This checks that sigma, c, a, f, have the correct dimensions

If there are no messages you passed this step.

If one of the parameters (sigma, a, c or f) does not have the correct dimensions then the following error message will appear, depending on which parameter dimension is incorrect:

"Your sigma needs to have n.yrs rows and n.seas columns"
"Your c needs to have n.yrs rows and n.seas columns"
"Your a needs to have n.yrs rows and n.seas columns"
"Your f needs to have n.yrs rows and n.seas columns"

10.4 Check if the parameters have the appropriate values

This checks that sigma, c, a, f, have appropriate values. As is described further in section 9 Parameters_DS.r, there are certain parameters that have set upper and lower bounds for the values. For example: cue rate cannot be a negative value, perception bias must be between 0 and 1 etc. This parameter.check will highlight if there are any values set in the parameters that are out of bounds for the simulation.

If there are no messages you passed this step.

If one of the parameters (sigma, a, c or f) does not have appropriate values then the following error message will appear, depending on which parameter is out of bounds:

"All values in sigma need to be numeric. No NA allowed."
"Your scale parameter sigma all need to be larger than 0"
"Your cue rates c all need to be larger than 0"
"Your perception bias a all need to be between 0 and 1"
"Your false positive rates f all need to be between 0 and 1"

10.5 Check the survey design

This tells you how many PAM units (n.transects) there will be in the study region and how many of them are nodes for range estimation (n.fancy):
### n.transects n.Fancy
## Min.  21.00  2.000
## 1st Qu.  28.00  2.000
## Median  32.00  3.000
## Mean  29.62  3.354
## 3rd Qu.  32.00  4.000
## Max.  32.00  6.000

### 10.6 Check the detection function

This shows you what your detection function looks like:

![Detection Function Graph](image)

### 10.7 Check the region, density and transects

This shows you what your study region looks like.

If you have specified hotspots in your survey region (as is the default) then you will be able to see them in your survey region plot here (white and yellow) and the position of the PAM units: blue dot = simple node (detection only), green dot = fancy node (range estimation node).

![Survey Region Plot](image)
11 Outputs

Once the script.r code has run, it will produce a .html file as an output.

This provides you with the outputs of the simulation.

11.1 Power to detect a change

In the tool a GLM is fitted to the data for each individual iteration run. For example, if n.sim=1,000 then 1,000 iterations are run and 1,000 GLMs are created to determine if a decline can be detected in each iteration. The output file gives the percentage of iterations with a p-value<0.05, denoting a significant decline parameter in the fitted GLM.

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>76.4</td>
<td>61.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This means that:

- 76.4% of the iterations had a GLM p-value of 0.1
- 61.9% of the iterations had a GLM p-value of 0.05 (a significant parameter decline was detected)
- 32.5% of the iterations had a GLM p-value of 0.01 (a highly significant parameter decline was detected)
11.2 Estimated densities

The output file produces a line graph that shows the estimated animal density for every single iteration of the simulation run (eg: if \( n_{\text{sim}} < 1000 \) then 1000 blue lines will be shown). Here you can compare the simulation estimated absolute density (blue lines) with the true absolute density (black line).

In this example the number of survey years is set to 10 (\( n_{\text{years}} < 10 \)) which is why there are 10 years listed along the x axis. Surveys have only been conducted in 1 season (\( n_{\text{seas}} < 1 \)) which is why under each year only 1 season shows on the x axis.

![Estimated animal densities](image)

11.3 Survey design

This simulation resulted in the following number of transects:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Min.</th>
<th>1st Qu.</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>3rd Qu.</th>
<th>Max.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This means that in the 1000 iterations of the simulation:

- the minimum number of PAM units placed within the survey region was 10
- the mean number of PAM units placed within the survey region was 12.6
- the maximum number of PAM units placed within the survey region was 15
This means that in the 1000 iterations of the simulation:

- the minimum number of fancy nodes (able to measure range to detections) placed within the survey region was 2
- the mean number of number of fancy nodes (able to measure range to detections) placed within the survey region was 3.069
- the maximum number of number of fancy nodes (able to measure range to detections) placed within the survey region was 6

## 12 More complex models

### 12.1 Batch Processing

In the “AVADECAF_Tool” folder there is a file called: the loop for sa.r

In order to batch run simulations one after the other, you need to set up your RRun folder a little differently.

Create a folder in RRun and call it something sensible. For example, I have called it Batch2 – this will become the parent folder for the batch runs. Inside this Batch2 folder paste a copy of the “AVADECAF_Tool” folder.

For each extra simulation create a new copy of the “AVADECAF_Tool” folder and rename it sensibly, also name the analysis in the respective script.r files and change the parameter value(s) for the respective scenario in their Parameters_DS.r.

For example, I want to run 4 simulations where the only parameter changing is animal density:

1) one simulation using only the baseline parameters (density=25.3) so I have called the folder BaselineDensity
2) one simulation where density=50.6 so I have called the folder DoubleDensity
3) one simulation where density=12.65 so I have called the folder HalfDensity
4) one simulation where density=6.325 so I have called the folder QuarterDensity

Within each of these I have changed the animal density (a1) in the Parameters file and the sim.name in the script file. Make sure these are the ONLY files in the Batch2 folder.
Now you can open the loop for sa.r file.

You need to set the working directory to the parent folder that you just created Batch2 – see highlighted lines in the code below:

```r
# SA1b script
curwd<"C:/RRun/Batch2"
setwd("C:/RRun/Batch2")
dirx <- dir()
for (i in 1:length(dirx)){
    newwd<-paste(curwd,"/",dirx[i],sep="")
    setwd(newwd)
    rm(list=ls())
    source("script.R")
    curwd <- "C:/RRun/Batch2"
    setwd(curwd)
    dirx <- dir()
}
```

### 12.2 Changing other parameters

Out with the basic model described above in section 9 Parameters_DS.r, there are many other parameters that can be changed to make the model more complex and more realistic. This are described in turn below.
12.2.1 Change the detection function scale parameter by season

The default code is a half normal detection function with a scale parameter of 2 and no seasonal change:

\[
\text{sigma1} \leftarrow 2 \\
\text{sigma} \leftarrow \text{sigma1} \times (1, 1, 1, 1)[1:n\text{.seas}]
\]

Remember: For smaller values of sigma your probability of detection decreases rapidly with distance.

![Figure 3 four examples of a half-normal detection function, each with a different scale (sigma) parameter.](image)

You can adjust this so that the detection function scale parameter changes during certain seasons. For example we can make the detection function scale parameter higher in the spring and summer periods:

- \( \text{sigma1} \leftarrow 2 \)
- \( \text{sigma} \leftarrow \text{sigma1} \times (1.5, 1.5, 1, 1)[1:n\text{.seas}] \)

Here the detection function scale parameter is 50% higher in seasons 2 and 3. This means that in seasons 2 and 3 your probability of detection with increasing distance is better than in months 1 and 4.

12.2.2 Change the detection function scale parameter by year

You can change the detection function scale parameter by year. The default in the code is for no annual change in the detection function scale parameter:

\[
\text{sigma.bias} \leftarrow 0
\]

This can be changed so that it increases by a set percentage each year.
12.2.3 Change density by season

This may be applicable to certain species that are known to migrate through an area and so will be present in higher densities at certain times of the year.

The default code is a density of 0.0253 animals/km² and no seasonal change:

\[
d_1 \leftarrow \frac{25.3}{1000} \quad \text{season} \leftarrow c(1,1,1,1)[1:n.seas]
\]

You can adjust this so that the density gets higher during certain seasons. For example we can make the density higher in the spring and summer periods:

- \[d_1 \leftarrow \frac{25.3}{1000}\]
- \[\text{season} \leftarrow c(1,1.5,1.5,1)[1:n.seas]\]
- Here the density is 50% higher in seasons 2 and 3. This means that the density in seasons 1 and 4 =0.0253 animals/km² while the density in seasons 2 and 3 =0.03795 animals/km² (25.3*1.5/1000)

12.2.4 Change cue production rate by season

This may be particularly applicable to certain species (e.g: humpback whales) that are known to vocalise more during certain periods of the year (such as the mating season) compared to other times of the year.

The default code is a cue rate of 0.407 cues/sec and no seasonal change:

\[
c_1 \leftarrow 0.407 \\
c \leftarrow c_1 \times c(1,1,1,1)[1:n.seas]
\]

You can adjust this so that the cue rate gets higher during certain seasons. For example we can make the cue rate higher in the spring and summer periods:

- \[c_1 \leftarrow 0.407\]
- \[c \leftarrow c_1 \times c(1,1.5,1.5,1)[1:n.seas]\]
- Here the cue rate is 50% higher in seasons 2 and 3. This means that the cue rate in seasons 1 and 4=0.407 while the cue rate in seasons 2 and 3=0.6105 (0.407*1.5)
12.2.5 **Change cue production rate by year**

You can change the cue production rate by year. The default in the code is for no annual change in cue rate:

```r
c.bias <- 0
```

This can be changed so that it increases by a set percentage each year.

- `c.bias <- 0.05` means that the cue rate increases by 5% annually
- `c.bias <- 0.1` means that the cue rate increases by 10% annually

12.2.6 **Creating overdispersion in the cue rate**

Counts of cues at each node are generated from a negative binomial distribution to allow for extra-Poisson variability, typical of biological datasets.

With the negative binomial distribution (unlike with the Poisson), the variance can be larger than the mean, and thus the variance inflation factor `n.cv` needs to be defined.

This parameter reflects the proportion of overdispersion in the cue data (e.g. 1.2 is a 20% overdispersion in cue count).

*Note that when `n.cv = 1`, the negative binomial distribution reduces to a Poisson distribution when using distance sampling methods, i.e. for method = “DS”.*

12.2.7 **Change perception bias by season**

The default code is a perception bias of 0.07 and no seasonal change:

```r
a1 <- c(0.07)
a <- a1 * c(1,1,1,1)[1:n.seas]
```

You can change this so that the perception increases by 50% in the summer for example. The code would be changed to:

- `a1 <- c(0.07)`
- `a <- a1 * c(1,1.5,1,1)[1:n.seas]`
- Here the perception bias is 50% higher in season 2 (summer). This means that the perception bias in seasons 1, 3 and 4=0.07 while the perception bias in season 2=0.105 (0.07*1.5)

12.2.8 **Change perception bias by year**

You can change the perception bias by year. The default in the code is for no annual change in perception bias:
a.bias <- 0

This can be changed so that it increases by a set percentage each year.

- a.bias <- 0.05 means that the perception bias increases by 5% annually
- a.bias <- 0.1 means that the perception bias increases by 10% annually

Be careful when you change a.bias that you do not make a 1 a non-valid value. a1 must be between 0 and 1.

If you enter a value that cannot run this will appear as an error message in the Parameter Check. You will see a message that says:

## [1] "Your perception bias values a all need to be between 0 and 1"

12.2.9 Change false positive rate by season

This may be particularly applicable if another species with similar vocalisations as your target species enters the study region at certain times of the year. For example, dolphin vocalisations can occur as a false positive in beaked whale studies. If the dolphins are only present in the study region at certain times of the year e.g: summer, then your false positive rate will be different in the summer.

The default code is a false positive rate of 0.547 and no seasonal change:

\[
f_{1} \leftarrow 0.547\\
f \leftarrow f_{1} \times c(1,1,1,1)[1:n.seas]
\]

You can change this to match the beaked whale and dolphin scenario described above. Let’s assume that the false positive rate increases by 50% in the summer because of the presence of dolphins. The code would be changed to:

- \( f_{1} \leftarrow 0.547 \)
- \( f \leftarrow f_{1} \times c(1,1.5,1,1)[1:n.seas] \)
- Here the false positive rate is 50% higher in season 2 (summer). This means that the false positive rate in seasons 1, 3 and 4=0.547 while the false positive rate in season 2=0.8205 (0.547*1.5)

12.2.10 Change false positive rate by year

You can change the false positive rate by year. The default in the code is for no annual change in false positive rate:

\[
f.bias \leftarrow 0
\]
This can be changed so that it increases by a set percentage each year.

- \( f.bias \leftarrow 0.05 \) means that the false positive rate increases by 5% annually
- \( f.bias \leftarrow 0.1 \) means that the false positive rate increases by 10% annually

This may be applicable if another species with similar vocalisations as your target species are also present in the study region. For example, dolphin vocalisations can occur as a false positive in beaked whale studies. If the local population of dolphins is increasing annually then the false positive rate in the beaked whale study may increase annually.

Be careful when you change \( f.bias \) that you do not make \( f1 \) a non-valid value. \( f1 \) must be between 0 and 1.

For example: if your \( f1 \) value is 0.8 then you cannot have an \( f.bias \) value of 0.1 (a 10% annual increase) because after 4 years your \( f1 \) value would be >1 and not allowed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>year</th>
<th>( f1 )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you enter a value that cannot run this will appear as an error message in the Parameter Check. You will see a message that says:

```
## [1] "Your false positive rates f all need to be between 0 and 1"
```

### 12.2.11 Maximum localisation distance

The code allows you to define the largest distance at which a detection can be localised. The default in the code is:

\[
max.loc.distance=\text{ifelse(adapted.for.localisation.range==F,w,.5)}
\]

This means that if \( \text{adapted.for.localisation.range==F} \) then the largest distance at which a detection can be localised is \( w \) (the truncation distance in km). Ie: if your truncation width (\( w \)) is 12 km then you are able to localise a cue out to a distance of 12 km.

If \( \text{adapted.for.localisation.range==T} \) then the largest distance at which a detection can be localised can be manually set. For example:
max.loc.distance=ifelse(adapted.for.localisation.range==F,w,.5)

this code means that if adapted.for.localisation.range==F then the localisation distance is set to \( w \), and if adapted.for.localisation.range==T then the localisation distance is set to 0.5 km.

You can change max.loc.distance to any value less than \( w \) (the truncation width). I.e: to make your localisation distance 2 km then the code gets changed to:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{adapted.for.localisation.range} &= T \\
\text{max.loc.distance} &= \text{ifelse(adapted.for.localisation.range==F,w,2)}
\end{align*}
\]

which means that detections are localised out to 2 km and beyond that detections are lumped into one distance bin (from max.loc.distance to truncation distance "\( w \)").

12.2.12 Randomised decline

In the code you can set the annual exponential decline in densities. The default in the code is an exponential 5\% annual decline every year over the study period:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{decline} &\leftarrow 0.05 \\
\text{randomized.decline} &= \text{FALSE}
\end{align*}
\]

If you change randomized decline to TRUE then the overall average annual decline remains at 5\%, but the actual decline from year to year is allowed to change randomly.

12.2.13 Grid-based distances

In the default code, grid.based.distances=FALSE. This means that the number of cues and distances are created using point densities which is simple but not very realistic as it does not capture non-uniform densities within the study area.

Note: grid.based.distances=TRUE is much more complex and realistic as it does capture non-uniform densities within the study area. However, it will take considerably more time to run the simulation when grid.based.distances=TRUE.

12.2.14 Adding hotspots

Hotspots can be added into the survey region to make the density more realistic so that you do not have flat density surface across the entire survey region. The default in the code is to have 2 hotspots:

\[
\text{density} \leftarrow \text{add.hotspot(density, c(10,40), sigma = 20, amplitude = d1*10)}
\]
density <- add.hotspot(density, c(22,10), sigma = 5, amplitude = d1*30)

Here, there is a hotspot at x,y coordinates (10,40) where the density is 10 times higher than the average density specified as d1, and another hotspot at x,y coordinates (22,10) where the density is 30 times higher than the average density specified as d1. This can be seen in the Parameter Check:

The user can change the location of the hotspots by changing the x,y coordinates \((c(10, 40))\) and the peak density at the hotspot by changing the amplitude value \((d1*10)\).

Note: this adjusts the density surface by adding hotspots at these specified locations and by suppressing the density elsewhere in the survey region so that the average density across the survey region remains unchanged \((d1)\).