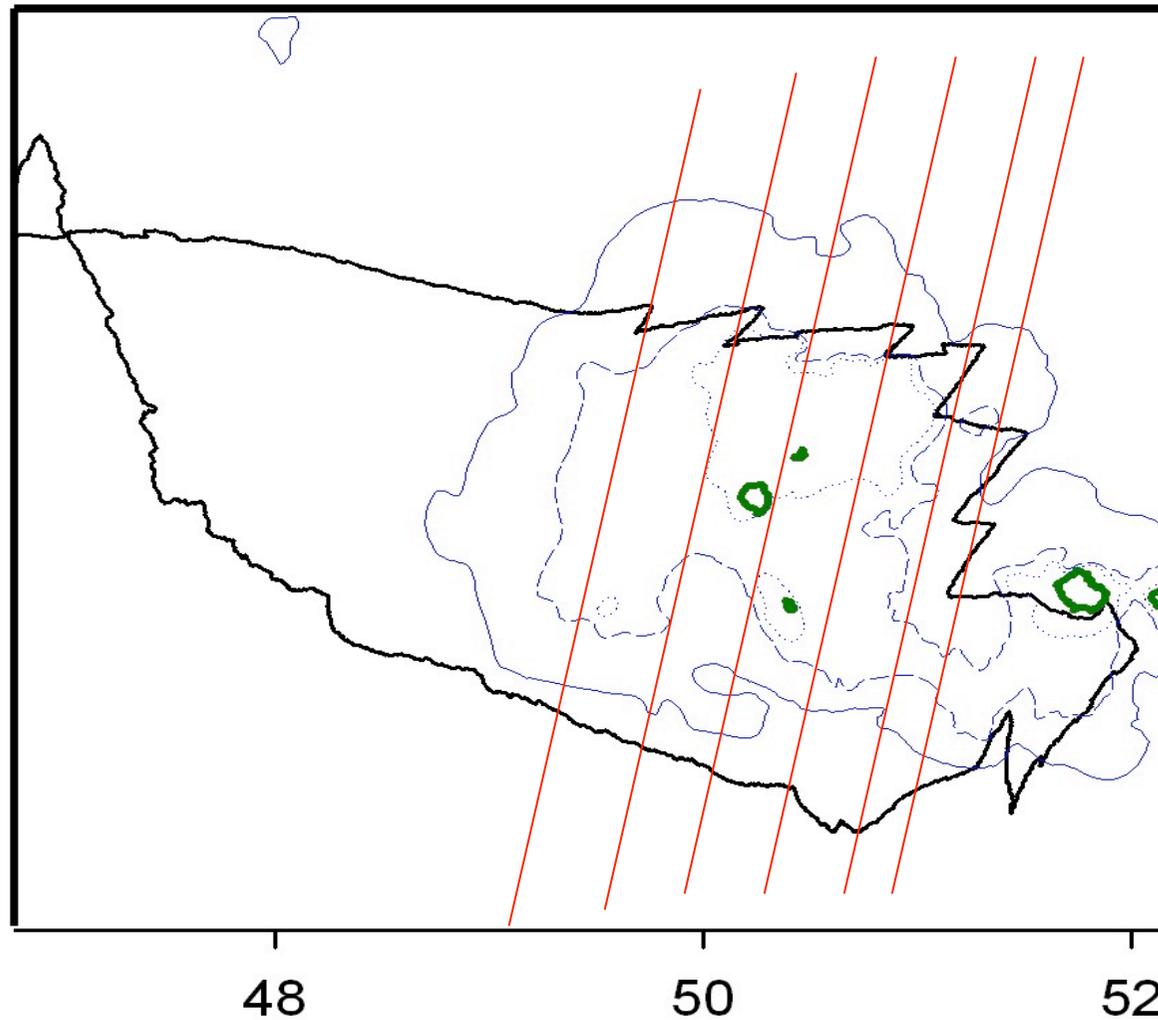


Three stages for the return part of the trip
 (1) a fairly direct , here curved, trajectory, followed by (2) an adjustment phase with a series of straight sections with changes of directions not related to wind conditions, until the bird has located visually and (3) use pilotage to reach the colony

Interestingly, when looking at all the birds using an adjustment, it looks like the southward movement is oblique, in the same way, as if birds were following isolines that are all for all the birds considered between Crozet and Kerguelen? In red here



Observations on satellite tracking data:

during phase 1 of return route can be straight from 2000-2500 km from the island

- wandering can travel at night, during the outward part of trip, but during the return phase, flight is solely during day time, birds stop at night en route, (i.e. probably they need sun / polarised light to keep a precise bearing)
- when coming from the west almost all birds arrive to the island from the north, e.g; typical in the example of the GPS track,
- When they come from the east they arrive from the south .

This is not related to wind conditions

Conclusion

Previous studies (Akesson & Alertam, Bonnadonna et al.) strongly suggest that wandering albatrosses do not use geo magnetic cues for homing

-olfaction is not sufficient to explain homing, especially when seeing the direct flight of the birds from very far (no olfactory landscape (Nevitt) used –...), and come indifferently from east and west which is not a logical route if olfaction was used to find Crozet....

- so it is most likely that they use an other method..... Probaly using a sun compass, and they can adjust their bearing according to longitudinal movement