

Package ‘arcpbf’

May 7, 2026

Title Process ArcGIS Protocol Buffer FeatureCollections

Version 0.2.0

Description Fast processing of ArcGIS FeatureCollection protocol buffers in R.
It is designed to work seamlessly with 'httr2' and integrates with 'sf'.

License Apache License (>= 2)

URL <https://r.esri.com/arcpbf/>, <https://github.com/R-ArcGIS/arcpbf>

BugReports <https://github.com/R-ArcGIS/arcpbf/issues>

Encoding UTF-8

Language en

RoxygenNote 7.3.2

Config/rextendr/version 0.3.1.9001

SystemRequirements Cargo (Rust's package manager), rustc >= 1.70

Suggests httr2, sf, testthat (>= 3.0.0)

Imports arcgisutils (>= 0.3.0), rlang

Config/testthat/edition 3

Depends R (>= 4.2)

NeedsCompilation yes

Author Josiah Parry [aut, cre] (ORCID:
<<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9910-865X>>)

Maintainer Josiah Parry <josiah.parry@gmail.com>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2025-10-22 16:50:02 UTC

Contents

open_pbf	2
post_process_pbf	2
process_pbf	3
read_pbf	5
resp_body_pbf	6

Index**8**

open_pbf	<i>Read a pbf file as a raw vector</i>
----------	--

Description

Read a pbf file as a raw vector

Usage

```
open_pbf(path)
```

Arguments

path the path to the .pbf file.

Value

a raw vector

Examples

```
count_fp <- system.file("count.pbf", package = "arcpbf")
oid_fp <- system.file("ids.pbf", package = "arcpbf")
tbl_fp <- system.file("small-table.pbf", package = "arcpbf")
fc_fp <- system.file("small-points.pbf", package = "arcpbf")
count_raw <- open_pbf(count_fp)
oid_raw <- open_pbf(oid_fp)
tbl_raw <- open_pbf(tbl_fp)
fc_raw <- open_pbf(fc_fp)
```

post_process_pbf	<i>Post process pbf results</i>
------------------	---------------------------------

Description

Applies post-processing to the results of process_pbf()

Usage

```
post_process_pbf(x, use_sf = TRUE)
```

Arguments

x an object as returned by process_pbf() or read_pbf()
use_sf default TRUE. Whether or not to return an sf object.

Details

If `x` is a list object, the results will be row-binded. This is appropriate if each element in the list is a `data.frame` or a feature result with geometry. However, if each element is *not* the same, the post-processing *will* error. If you cannot be certain that all elements that you will be post processing will be the same, post-process each list element independently.

Value

An object of class `data.frame`, `sf`, or a scalar integer vector.

See [process_pbf\(\)](#) for more details.

Examples

```
tbl_fp <- system.file("small-table.pbf", package = "arcpbf")
fc_fp <- system.file("small-points.pbf", package = "arcpbf")

# table feature collection
fc <- read_pbf(tbl_fp)
head(post_process_pbf(fc))

# feature collection with geometry
fc <- read_pbf(fc_fp)
head(post_process_pbf(fc))
```

process_pbf

Process a FeatureCollection PBF

Description

Process a pbf from a raw vector or a list of raw vectors.

Usage

```
process_pbf(proto)
```

Arguments

`proto` either a raw vector or a list of raw vectors containing a `FeatureCollection pbf`

Details

There are three types of PBF `FeatureCollection` responses that may be returned.

Feature Result:

In the case the PBF is a `FeatureResult` and `use_sf = FALSE`, a `data.frame` is returned with the spatial reference stored in the `crs` attribute. Otherwise an `sf` object is returned.

Count Result:

The PBF can also return a count result, for example if the **query parameter** `returnCountOnly` is set to `true`. In this case, a scalar integer vector is returned.

Object ID Result:

In the case that the query parameter `returnIdsOnly` is `true`, a `data.frame` is returned containing the object IDs and the column name set to the object ID field name in the feature service.

Value

- For count results, a scalar integer.
- For object ID results a `data.frame` with one column.
- For pbf's that contain geometries, a list of 3 elements:
 - `attributes` is a `data.frame` of the fields of the `FeatureCollection`
 - `geometry` is an `sf` object **without a computed bounding box or coordinate reference system set**
 - `sr` is a named list of the spatial reference of the feature collection

Important: Use `post_process_pbf()` to convert to an `sf` object with a computed bounding box and CRS.

Examples

```
count_fp <- system.file("count.pbf", package = "arcpbf")
oid_fp <- system.file("ids.pbf", package = "arcpbf")
tbl_fp <- system.file("small-table.pbf", package = "arcpbf")
fc_fp <- system.file("small-points.pbf", package = "arcpbf")

# count response
count_raw <- open_pbf(count_fp)
process_pbf(count_raw)

# object id response
oid_raw <- open_pbf(oid_fp)
head(process_pbf(oid_raw))

# table feature collection
tbl_raw <- open_pbf(tbl_fp)
process_pbf(tbl_raw)

# feature collection with geometry
fc_raw <- open_pbf(fc_fp)
process_pbf(fc_raw)
```

`read_pbf`*Read a FeatureCollection Protocol Buffer*

Description

Given a binary file containing a FeatureCollection protocol buffer (pbf), read its contents into R as an R object.

Usage

```
read_pbf(path, post_process = TRUE, use_sf = TRUE)
```

Arguments

<code>path</code>	a scalar character of the path to the pbf file
<code>post_process</code>	default TRUE. Apply <code>post_process_pbf()</code> to the pbf body.
<code>use_sf</code>	default TRUE. Whether or not to return an sf object.

Value

Either a data.frame, list, scalar integer, or sf object if `post_process = TRUE` and `use_sf = TRUE`. See [process_pbf\(\)](#) for more.

Examples

```
count_fp <- system.file("count.pbf", package = "arcpbf")
oid_fp <- system.file("ids.pbf", package = "arcpbf")
tbl_fp <- system.file("small-table.pbf", package = "arcpbf")
fc_fp <- system.file("small-points.pbf", package = "arcpbf")

# count response
read_pbf(count_fp)

# object id response
head(read_pbf(oid_fp))

# table feature collection
read_pbf(tbl_fp)

# feature collection with geometry
read_pbf(fc_fp)
```

resp_body_pbf *Extract PBFs from httr2_response objects*

Description

Processes httr2_response objects that return FeatureCollection PBFs.

Usage

```
resp_body_pbf(resp, post_process = TRUE, use_sf = TRUE)
```

```
resps_data_pbf(resps, post_process = TRUE, use_sf = TRUE)
```

Arguments

resp	A httr2 response object, created by req_perform() .
post_process	default TRUE. Apply post_process_pbf() to the pbf body.
use_sf	default TRUE. Whether or not to return an sf object.
resps	a list of httr2_response objects such as created by httr2::req_perform_parallel()

Details

Responses of type application/x-protobuf are automatically processed using [process_pbf\(\)](#) with optional post-processing applied. These functions assume that the body of the responses are an Esri FeatureCollection protocol buffer.

Lists of responses:

When running multiple requests in parallel using [httr2::req_perform_parallel\(\)](#) the responses are returned as a list of responses. [resps_data_pbf\(\)](#) processes the responses in a vectorized manner.

Results are post-processed by default and return sf objects if applicable. This may not be desirable if heterogeneous response types are expected. For example, if one list element contains a count result and another contains an object ID result.

See [post_process_pbf\(\)](#) for more details.

Note: Knowledge Graph protocol buffers and other protobuf formats are not supported and will result in an error if used with these functions.

Value

A processed FeatureCollection pbf. Either a scalar integer, named list, data.frame, or an sf object if post-processing is applied.

Examples

```
if (rlang::is_installed(c("httr2", "sf")) && interactive()) {
  base_url <- file.path(
    "https://services.arcgis.com/P3ePLMYS2RVChkJx",
    "arcgis", "rest", "services",
    "ACS_Population_by_Race_and_Hispanic_Origin_Boundaries",
    "FeatureServer", "2", "query",
    fsep = "/"
  )

  # create the base request
  req <- httr2::request(base_url)

  # fill query parameters
  req <- httr2::req_url_query(
    req,
    where = "1=1",
    outFields = "objectid",
    resultRecordCount = 1,
    f = "pbf"
  )

  # make the request
  resp <- httr2::req_perform(req)

  # parse the request
  resp_body_pbf(resp)

  # simulate response from multi_req_perform
  resps <- list(resp, resp, resp)

  # process them all at once
  resps_data_pbf(resps)
}
```

Index

`httr2::req_perform_parallel()`, 6

`open_pbf`, 2

`post_process_pbf`, 2

`post_process_pbf()`, 4, 6

`process_pbf`, 3

`process_pbf()`, 3, 5

`read_pbf`, 5

`req_perform()`, 6

`resp_body_pbf`, 6

`response`, 6

`resps_data_pbf (resp_body_pbf)`, 6