

Package ‘decido’

May 8, 2026

Version 0.4.0

Title Bindings for 'Mapbox' Ear Cutting Triangulation Library

Description Provides constrained triangulation of polygons. Ear cutting (or ear clipping) applies constrained triangulation by successively 'cutting' triangles from a polygon defined by path/s. Holes are supported by introducing a bridge segment between polygon paths. This package wraps the 'header-only' library 'earcut.hpp' <<https://github.com/mapbox/earcut.hpp>> which includes a reference to the method used by Held, M. (2001) <[doi:10.1007/s00453-001-0028-4](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00453-001-0028-4)>.

License MIT + file LICENSE

Encoding UTF-8

ByteCompile true

LinkingTo Rcpp

Depends R (>= 3.2.5)

Imports Rcpp

RoxygenNote 7.3.2

Suggests covr, testthat, knitr, oz, rmarkdown, spelling, markdown

VignetteBuilder knitr

URL <https://hypertidy.github.io/decido/>

BugReports <https://github.com/hypertidy/decido/issues>

Language en-US

NeedsCompilation yes

Author Michael Sumner [aut, cre],
Andrew Smith [ctb] (provided C++ guidance),
Mapbox [cph] (author of header library earcut.hpp),
Mark Padgham [ctb] (help with CRAN issues),
David Cooley [ctb] (added header capability for linking from other packages)

Maintainer Michael Sumner <mdsumner@gmail.com>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2025-11-28 06:21:02 UTC

Contents

decido-package	2
earcut	3
plot_ears	4
Index	6

decido-package	<i>decido</i>
----------------	---------------

Description

Provides constrained triangulation of polygons. Ear cutting (or ear clipping) applies constrained triangulation by successively 'cutting' triangles from a polygon defined by path/s. Holes are supported. This package wraps the 'header-only' library 'earcut.hpp' <https://github.com/mapbox/earcut.hpp>.

Author(s)

Maintainer: Michael Sumner <mdsumner@gmail.com>

Other contributors:

- Andrew Smith (provided C++ guidance) [contributor]
- Mapbox (author of header library earcut.hpp) [copyright holder]
- Mark Padgham (help with CRAN issues) [contributor]
- David Cooley (added header capability for linking from other packages) [contributor]

See Also

Useful links:

- <https://hypertidy.github.io/decido/>
- Report bugs at <https://github.com/hypertidy/decido/issues>

earcut	<i>Constrained polygon triangulation</i>
--------	--

Description

Produce a triangulation index into x,y coordinates of a polygon that may include holes. Holes are specified by input argument holes which marks the starting index of each hole, if any.

Usage

```
earcut(xy, holes = 0, ...)  
  
## Default S3 method:  
earcut(xy, holes = 0L, ...)
```

Arguments

xy	xy-coordinates, either a list, matrix, or data frame
holes	index of starting position of each hole in x,y, leave set to 0 if no holes
...	unused

Details

Triangles are returned in counter-clockwise orientation, a common convention that ascribes a positive area to the triangle. (Orientation may be collinear or numerically ambiguous and so may be undetermined).

Ear cutting (or ear clipping) applies constrained triangulation by successively 'cutting' triangles from a polygon defined by path/s. Holes are supported, the earcut library works with single-island-with-holes polygons, analogous to the POLYGON type in simple features.

To understand the specification of holes, see the examples with comment starting "1) Notice how the hole begins ..." in relation to the example code.

Value

integer vector of triangle index, in sets of three

See Also

plot_ears

Examples

```
## single ring polygon  
x <- c(0, 0, 0.75, 1, 0.5, 0.8, 0.69)  
y <- c(0, 1, 1, 0.8, 0.7, 0.6, 0)  
(ind <- earcut(cbind(x, y)))  
plot_ears(cbind(x, y), ind)
```

```

## polygon with a hole
x <- c(0, 0, 0.75, 1, 0.5, 0.8, 0.69,
      0.2, 0.5, 0.5, 0.3, 0.2)
y <- c(0, 1, 1, 0.8, 0.7, 0.6, 0,
      0.2, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.4)
ind <- earcut(cbind(x, y), holes = 8)
plot_ears(cbind(x, y), ind)

## 1) Notice how the hole begins at index 8,
## hence holes = 8 above, and holes = c(8, 13) below
plot_ears(cbind(x, y), ind, col = "grey", border = NA)
text(x, y, labels = seq_along(x), pos = 2)

## add another hole
x <- c(0, 0, 0.75, 1, 0.5, 0.8, 0.69,
      0.2, 0.5, 0.5, 0.3, 0.2,
      0.15, 0.23, 0.2)
y <- c(0, 1, 1, 0.8, 0.7, 0.6, 0,
      0.2, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.4,
      0.65, 0.65, 0.81)
ind <- earcut(cbind(x, y), holes = c(8, 13))
plot_ears(cbind(x, y), ind, col = "grey")
# simpler shape with more than one hole
# the two inside holes are open to each other
# (so we can use the same data for one hole or two)
x <- c(0, 0, 1, 1,
      0.4, 0.2, 0.2, 0.4,
      0.6, 0.8, 0.8, 0.6
)
y <- c(0, 1, 1, 0,
      0.2, 0.2, 0.4, 0.4,
      0.6, 0.6, 0.4, 0.4
)
ind <- decido::earcut(cbind(x, y), holes = c(5, 9))
plot_ears(cbind(x, y), ind, col = "grey")
plot_holes(cbind(x, y), holes = c(5, 9), col = "grey")
ind <- decido::earcut(cbind(x, y), holes = 5)
plot_ears(cbind(x, y), ind, col = "grey")
plot_holes(cbind(x, y), holes = 5, col = "grey")

```

plot_ears

Plot ears or polygons

Description

Plot the triangles produced by [earcut](#), or plot the polygon paths using the same interface as [earcut](#) uses. This allows for easy comparison and checking of what the results should be.

Usage

```
plot_ears(xy, idx, add = FALSE, ...)  
  
plot_holes(xy, holes = 0, add = FALSE, ...)
```

Arguments

xy	xy-coordinates, either a list, matrix, or data frame
idx	index of triangles
add	add to current plot, or create a new
...	arguments to polypath
holes	index of starting position of holes (see earcut)

Details

For both functions the first input is a matrix of x,y coordinates.

For [plot_ears](#) the second input is the index output of earcut. The index is treated in sets of 3 values, with individual calls to [polypath](#) to draw a polygon for each triangle.

For [plot_holes](#) the second input is the holes argument that would be used for earcut. This is used to split the coordinates at these positions, inserting NA values as per the mechanism used by [graphics::polypath](#) to break coordinates into separate polygon rings. (There's no winding rule here `plot_rules` is hard-coded to always use the evenodd rule, so that winding order may be ignored).

See Also

[earcut](#)

Examples

```
## after ?polypath  
x <- cbind(c(.1, .1, .9, .9, .2, .2, .8, .8),  
          c(.1, .9, .9, .1, .2, .8, .8, .2))  
plot_holes(x, holes = 5, col = "grey")
```

Index

`decido` (`decido-package`), [2](#)
`decido-package`, [2](#)

`earcut`, [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)

`graphics::polypath`, [5](#)

`plot_ears`, [4](#), [5](#)

`plot_holes`, [5](#)

`plot_holes` (`plot_ears`), [4](#)

`polypath`, [5](#)