

Package ‘waver’

May 8, 2026

Type Package

Title Calculate Fetch and Wave Energy

Version 0.3.0

Description Functions for calculating the
fetch (length of open water distance along given directions)
and estimating wave energy from wind and wave monitoring data.

License GPL-3

URL <https://github.com/pmarchand1/waver>

BugReports <https://github.com/pmarchand1/waver/issues>

Depends R (>= 4.0), sf (>= 1.0)

Imports geosphere (>= 1.5), methods

Suggests lwgeom, sp, testthat

Encoding UTF-8

RoxygenNote 7.2.3

NeedsCompilation no

Author Philippe Marchand [aut, cre],
David Gill [aut]

Maintainer Philippe Marchand <marchand.philippe@gmail.com>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2023-09-24 17:30:02 UTC

Contents

fetch_len	2
fetch_len_multi	3
wave_energy	4

Index	7
--------------	----------

`fetch_len`*Calculate the fetch length around a point*

Description

Given a point, a shoreline layer and a vector of wind directions (bearings), `fetch_len` calculates the distance from point to shore for each bearing.

Usage

```
fetch_len(  
  p,  
  bearings,  
  shoreline,  
  dmax,  
  spread = 0,  
  projected = FALSE,  
  check_inputs = TRUE  
)
```

Arguments

<code>p</code>	Simple feature (sf or sfc) object representing a single point.
<code>bearings</code>	Vector of bearings, in degrees.
<code>shoreline</code>	Simple feature (sf or sfc) object representing the shoreline, in either line or polygon format.
<code>dmax</code>	Maximum value of fetch length, returned if there is no land within a distance of <code>dmax</code> from a given bearing.
<code>spread</code>	Vector of relative bearings (in degrees) for which to calculate fetch around each main bearing (see details).
<code>projected</code>	Deprecated argument, kept for backwards compatibility.
<code>check_inputs</code>	Should the validity of inputs be checked? It is recommended to keep this TRUE, unless this function is called repeatedly from another function that already checks inputs.

Details

The fetch length (or fetch) is the distance of open water over which the wind can blow in a specific direction. Note that bearings represent the direction from where the wind originates.

The optional `spread` argument defines relative directions that are added to each main bearing to produce a set of sub-bearings. The fetch lengths calculated for each sub-bearing are averaged with weights proportional to $\cos(\text{spread})$. By default, `spread = 0` and fetch length is calculated for the main bearings only.

The input data can be in either geographic (long, lat) or projected coordinates, but `p` and `shoreline` must share the same coordinate system. Distances are calculated using the [st_distance](#) function

from the `sf` package and expressed in the units of the coordinate system used, or in meters if using geographic coordinates. For geographic coordinates, we recommend setting `sf_use_s2(FALSE)`, which results in `st_distance` using the ellipsoid distance calculation (requires the `lwgeom` package), instead of the less precise spherical distance calculation. For projected coordinates, the Euclidean distance is calculated.

If the shoreline layer is composed of polygons rather than lines, the function verifies that the input point is outside all polygons (i.e. in water). If this is not the case, it issues a warning and returns a vector of NA.

Value

A named vector representing the fetch length for each direction given in bearings.

See Also

[fetch_len_multi](#) for an efficient alternative when computing fetch length for multiple points.

Examples

```
pt <- st_sfc(st_point(c(0, 0)), crs = st_crs(4326))
# Shoreline is a rectangle from (-0.2, 0.25) to (0.3, 0.5)
rect <- st_polygon(list(cbind(c(rep(-0.2, 2), rep(0.3, 2), -0.2),
                             c(0.25, rep(0.3, 2), rep(0.25, 2))))))
land <- st_sfc(rect, crs = st_crs(4326))
fetch_len(pt, bearings = c(0, 45, 225, 315), land,
          dmax = 50000, spread = c(-10, 0, 10))
```

fetch_len_multi

Calculate the fetch length for multiple points

Description

`fetch_len_multi` provides two methods to efficiently compute fetch length for multiple points.

Usage

```
fetch_len_multi(
  pts,
  bearings,
  shoreline,
  dmax,
  spread = 0,
  method = "btree",
  projected = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

pts	Simple features (sf or sfc) object containing point data.
bearings	Vector of bearings, in degrees.
shoreline	Simple feature (sf or sfc) object representing the shoreline, in either line or polygon format.
dmax	Maximum value of fetch length, returned if there is no land within a distance of dmax from a given bearing.
spread	Vector of relative bearings (in degrees) for which to calculate fetch around each main bearing.
method	Whether to use the "btree" (default) or "clip" method. See below for more details.
projected	Deprecated argument, kept for backwards compatibility.

Details

With method = "btree" (default), the fetch calculation for each point only uses the geometries within the shoreline layer that intersect with a rectangular buffer of size dmax around that point. (The name is based on a previous version of the function that implemented this method using the gBinarySTRtreeQuery function from the rgeos package.)

With method = "clip", the shoreline is clipped to its intersection with a polygon formed by the union of all the individual points' rectangular buffers.

In both cases, [fetch_len](#) is then applied to each point, using only the necessary portion of the shoreline.

Generally, the "clip" method will produce the biggest time savings when points are clustered within distances less than dmax (so their clipping rectangles overlap), whereas the "btree" method will be more efficient when the shoreline is composed of multiple geometrical objects and points are distant from each other.

Value

A matrix of fetch lengths, with one row by point in pts and one column by bearing in bearings.

See Also

[fetch_len](#) for details on the fetch length computation.

wave_energy

Calculate the wave energy flux

Description

Calculates the wave energy flux (power per meter of wave crest) given either (1) the significant wave height and peak period or (2) the wind speed at 10m, fetch length and (optionally) water depth.

Usage

wave_energy(height = NA, period = NA, wind = NA, fetch = NA, depth = NA)

Arguments

height	Significant wave height, in meters.
period	Peak wave period, in seconds.
wind	Wind speed at 10m, in m/s.
fetch	Fetch length, in meters.
depth	Water depth, in meters.

Details

Given the significant height (H) and peak period (T), the wave energy flux is calculated as:

$$\frac{\rho g^2}{64\pi} H^2 T$$

, where ρ is the density of water (998 kg/m³) and g is the acceleration of gravity (9.81 m/s²).

If both height and period are missing, they are estimated from on the wind speed at 10m (U_{10}) and the fetch length (F) as described in Resio et al. (2003):

$$U_f^2 = 0.001(1.1 + 0.035U_{10})U_{10}^2$$

(friction velocity)

$$\frac{gH}{U_f^2} = \min(0.0413\sqrt{\frac{gF}{U_f^2}}, 211.5)$$

$$\frac{gT}{U_f} = \min(0.651(\frac{gF}{U_f^2})^{1/3}, 239.8)$$

If the depth (d) is specified, it imposes a limit on the peak period:

$$T_{max} = 9.78\sqrt{\frac{d}{g}}$$

(in seconds)

Value

Wave energy flux, in kW/m.

References

Resio, D.T., Bratos, S.M., and Thompson, E.F. (2003). Meteorology and Wave Climate, Chapter II-2. Coastal Engineering Manual. US Army Corps of Engineers, Washington DC, 72pp.

Examples

```
# With height and period arguments  
wave_energy(8, 1)
```

```
# With wind, fetch and depth arguments (must be named)  
wave_energy(wind = 12, fetch = 15000, depth = 10)
```

Index

fetch_len, [2](#), [4](#)

fetch_len_multi, [3](#), [3](#)

st_distance, [2](#)

wave_energy, [4](#)