# Package 'spatialsample'

December 2, 2025

Title Spatial Resampling Infrastructure

Version 0.6.1

Description Functions and classes for spatial resampling to use with the 'rsample' package, such as spatial cross-validation (Brenning, 2012) <doi:10.1109/IGARSS.2012.6352393>. The scope of 'rsample' and 'spatialsample' is to provide the basic building blocks for creating and analyzing resamples of a spatial data set, but neither package includes functions for modeling or computing statistics. The resampled spatial data sets created by 'spatialsample' do not contain much overhead in memory.

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```
URL https://github.com/tidymodels/spatialsample,
   https://spatialsample.tidymodels.org
```

```
BugReports https://github.com/tidymodels/spatialsample/issues
```

**Depends** R (>= 3.6)

```
Imports dplyr (>= 1.0.0), ggplot2, glue, purrr, rlang (>= 1.0.0), rsample (>= 1.1.1), sf (>= 1.0-9), stats, tibble, tidyselect, units, vctrs (>= 0.3.6)
```

**Suggests** covr, gifski, knitr, lwgeom, modeldata, rmarkdown, testthat (>= 3.0.0), tidyr, vdiffr, whisker, withr, vardstick

LinkingTo cpp11

VignetteBuilder knitr

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NeedsCompilation yes

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autoplot.spatial\_rset Create a ggplot for spatial resamples.

## Description

This method provides a good visualization method for spatial resampling.

## Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'spatial_rset'
autoplot(object, ..., alpha = 0.6)
## S3 method for class 'spatial_block_cv'
autoplot(object, show_grid = TRUE, ..., alpha = 0.6)
```

## Arguments

object	A spatial_rset object or a spatial_rsplit object. Note that only resamples made from sf objects create spatial_rset and spatial_rsplit objects; this function will not work for resamples made with non-spatial tibbles or data.frames.
	Options passed to ggplot2::geom_sf().
alpha	Opacity, passed to ggplot2::geom_sf(). Values of alpha range from 0 to 1, with lower values corresponding to more transparent colors.
show_grid	When plotting spatial_block_cv objects, should the grid itself be drawn on top of the data? Set to FALSE to remove the grid.

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#### **Details**

The plot method for spatial\_rset displays which fold each observation is assigned to. Note that if data is assigned to multiple folds (which is common if resamples were created with a non-zero radius) only the "last" fold for each observation will appear on the plot. Consider adding ggplot2::facet\_wrap(~ fold) to visualize all members of each fold separately. Alternatively, consider plotting each split using the spatial\_rsplit method (for example, via lapply(object\$splits, autoplot)).

#### Value

A ggplot object with each fold assigned a color, made using ggplot2::geom\_sf().

#### **Examples**

```
boston_block <- spatial_block_cv(boston_canopy, v = 2)
autoplot(boston_block)
autoplot(boston_block$splits[[1]])</pre>
```

boston\_canopy

Boston tree canopy and heat index data.

#### **Description**

A dataset containing data on tree canopy coverage and change for the city of Boston, Massachusetts from 2014-2019, as well as temperature and heat index data for July 2019. Data is aggregated to a grid of regular 25 hectare hexagons, clipped to city boundaries. This data is made available under the Public Domain Dedication and License v1.0 whose full text can be found at: https://opendatacommons.org/licenses/pddl/1-0/.

#### Usage

boston\_canopy

#### Format

A data frame (of class sf, tbl\_df, tbl, and data.frame) containing 682 records of 22 variables:

**grid\_id** Unique identifier for each hexagon. Letters represent the hexagon's X position in the grid (ordered West to East), while numbers represent the Y position (ordered North to South).

land\_area Area excluding water bodies

canopy\_gain Area of canopy gain between the two years

canopy\_loss Area of canopy loss between the two years

canopy\_no\_change Area of no canopy change between the two years

canopy\_area\_2014 2014 total canopy area (baseline)

canopy\_area\_2019 2019 total canopy area

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**change\_canopy\_area** The change in area of tree canopy between the two years

**change\_canopy\_percentage** Relative change calculation used in economics is the gain or loss of tree canopy relative to the earlier time period: (2019 Canopy-2014 Canopy)/(2014 Canopy)

canopy\_percentage\_2014 2014 canopy percentage

canopy\_percentage\_2019 2019 canopy percentage

**change\_canopy\_absolute** Absolute change. Magnitude of change in percent tree canopy from 2014 to 2019 (% 2019 Canopy - % 2014 Canopy)

mean\_temp\_morning Mean temperature for July 2019 from 6am - 7am

mean\_temp\_evening Mean temperature for July 2019 from 7pm - 8pm

mean\_temp Mean temperature for July 2019 from 6am - 7am, 3pm - 4pm, and 7pm - 8pm (combined)

mean\_heat\_index\_morning Mean heat index for July 2019 from 6am - 7am

mean heat index evening Mean heat index for July 2019 from 7pm - 8pm

mean\_heat\_index Mean heat index for July 2019 from 6am - 7am, 3pm - 4pm, and 7pm - 8pm (combined)

**geometry** Geometry of each hexagon, encoded using EPSG:2249 as a coordinate reference system (NAD83 / Massachusetts Mainland (ftUS)). Note that the linear units of this CRS are in US feet.

#### **Details**

Note that this dataset is in the EPSG:2249 (NAD83 / Massachusetts Mainland (ftUS)) coordinate reference system (CRS), which may not be installed by default on your computer. Before working with boston\_canopy, run:

- sf::sf\_proj\_network(TRUE) to install the CRS itself
- sf::sf\_add\_proj\_units() to add US customary units to your units database

These steps only need to be taken once per computer (or per PROJ installation).

### Source

Canopy data is from https://data.boston.gov/dataset/hex-tree-canopy-change-metrics.

Heat data is from https://data.boston.gov/dataset/hex-mean-heat-index. Most field definitions are from https://data.boston.gov/dataset/canopy-change-assessment-data-dictionary.

spatial\_block\_cv

Spatial block cross-validation

#### **Description**

Block cross-validation splits the area of your data into a number of grid cells, or "blocks", and then assigns all data into folds based on the blocks their centroid falls into.

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#### Usage

```
spatial_block_cv(
  data,
  method = c("random", "snake", "continuous"),
  v = 10,
  relevant_only = TRUE,
  radius = NULL,
  buffer = NULL,
  ...,
  repeats = 1,
  expand_bbox = 1e-05
)
```

#### **Arguments**

data An object of class sf or sfc.

method The method used to sample blocks for cross validation folds. Currently supports

"random", which randomly assigns blocks to folds, "snake", which labels the first row of blocks from left to right, then the next from right to left, and repeats from there, and "continuous", which labels each row from left to right, moving

from the bottom row up.

v The number of partitions for the resampling. Set to NULL or Inf for the maxi-

mum sensible value (for leave-one-X-out cross-validation).

relevant\_only For systematic sampling, should only blocks containing data be included in fold

labeling?

radius Numeric: points within this distance of the initially-selected test points will be

assigned to the assessment set. If NULL, no radius is applied.

buffer Numeric: points within this distance of any point in the test set (after radius is

applied) will be assigned to neither the analysis or assessment set. If NULL, no

buffer is applied.

... Arguments passed to sf::st\_make\_grid().

repeats The number of times to repeat the V-fold partitioning.

expand\_bbox A numeric of length 1, representing a proportion to expand the bounding box

of data by before building a grid. Without this expansion, grids built from data in geographic coordinates may exclude observations and grids built from regularly spaced data might have observations fall exactly on the boundary between folds, duplicating them. In spatialsample < 0.5.0, this was 0.00001 for data in a geographic CRS and 0 for data in a planar CRS. In spatialsample >= 0.5.0, this

is 0.00001 for all data.

## Details

The grid blocks can be controlled by passing arguments to sf::st\_make\_grid() via .... Some particularly useful arguments include:

• cellsize: Target cellsize, expressed as the "diameter" (shortest straight-line distance between opposing sides; two times the apothem) of each block, in map units.

- n: The number of grid blocks in the x and y direction (columns, rows).
- square: A logical value indicating whether to create square (TRUE) or hexagonal (FALSE) cells.

If both cellsize and n are provided, then the number of blocks requested by n of sizes specified by cellsize will be returned, likely not lining up with the bounding box of data. If only cellsize is provided, this function will return as many blocks of size cellsize as fit inside the bounding box of data. If only n is provided, then cellsize will be automatically adjusted to create the requested number of cells.

#### Value

A tibble with classes spatial\_block\_cv, spatial\_rset, rset, tbl\_df, tbl, and data.frame. The results include a column for the data split objects and an identification variable id.

#### References

D. R. Roberts, V. Bahn, S. Ciuti, M. S. Boyce, J. Elith, G. Guillera-Arroita, S. Hauenstein, J. J. Lahoz-Monfort, B. Schröder, W. Thuiller, D. I. Warton, B. A. Wintle, F. Hartig, and C. F. Dormann. "Cross-validation strategies for data with temporal, spatial, hierarchical, or phylogenetic structure," 2016, Ecography 40(8), pp. 913-929, doi: 10.1111/ecog.02881.

#### **Examples**

```
spatial_block_cv(boston_canopy, v = 3)
```

```
spatial_buffer_vfold_cv
```

V-Fold Cross-Validation with Buffering

## Description

V-fold cross-validation (also known as k-fold cross-validation) randomly splits the data into V groups of roughly equal size (called "folds"). A resample of the analysis data consists of V-1 of the folds while the assessment set contains the final fold. These functions extend rsample::vfold\_cv() and rsample::group\_vfold\_cv() to also apply an inclusion radius and exclusion buffer to the assessment set, ensuring that your analysis data is spatially separated from the assessment set. In basic V-fold cross-validation (i.e. no repeats), the number of resamples is equal to V.

## Usage

```
spatial_buffer_vfold_cv(
  data,
  radius,
  buffer,
  v = 10,
  repeats = 1,
```

```
spatial_buffer_vfold_cv
```

```
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```

```
strata = NULL,
breaks = 4,
pool = 0.1,
...
)

spatial_leave_location_out_cv(
   data,
    group,
   v = NULL,
   radius = NULL,
   buffer = NULL,
   ...,
   repeats = 1
)
```

## **Arguments**

data	A data frame.
radius	Numeric: points within this distance of the initially-selected test points will be assigned to the assessment set. If NULL, no radius is applied.
buffer	Numeric: points within this distance of any point in the test set (after radius is applied) will be assigned to neither the analysis or assessment set. If NULL, no buffer is applied.
V	The number of partitions for the resampling. Set to NULL or Inf for the maximum sensible value (for leave-one-X-out cross-validation).
repeats	The number of times to repeat the V-fold partitioning.
strata	A variable in data (single character or name) used to conduct stratified sampling. When not NULL, each resample is created within the stratification variable. Numeric strata are binned into quartiles.
breaks	A single number giving the number of bins desired to stratify a numeric stratification variable.
pool	A proportion of data used to determine if a particular group is too small and should be pooled into another group. We do not recommend decreasing this argument below its default of 0.1 because of the dangers of stratifying groups that are too small.
	These dots are for future extensions and must be empty.
group	A variable in data (single character or name) used to create folds. For leave-location-out CV, this should be a variable containing the locations to group observations by, for leave-time-out CV the time blocks to group by, and for leave-location-and-time-out the spatiotemporal blocks to group by.

## **Details**

When radius and buffer are both NULL, spatial\_buffer\_vfold\_cv is equivalent to rsample::vfold\_cv() and spatial\_leave\_location\_out\_cv is equivalent to rsample::group\_vfold\_cv().

#### References

K. Le Rest, D. Pinaud, P. Monestiez, J. Chadoeuf, and C. Bretagnolle. 2014. "Spatial leave-one-out cross-validation for variable selection in the presence of spatial autocorrelation," Global Ecology and Biogeography 23, pp. 811-820, doi: 10.1111/geb.12161.

H. Meyer, C. Reudenbach, T. Hengl, M. Katurji, and T. Nauss. 2018. "Improving performance of spatio-temporal machine learning models using forward feature selection and target-oriented validation," Environmental Modelling & Software 101, pp. 1-9, doi: 10.1016/j.envsoft.2017.12.001.

#### **Examples**

```
data(Smithsonian, package = "modeldata")
Smithsonian_sf <- sf::st_as_sf(
    Smithsonian,
    coords = c("longitude", "latitude"),
    crs = 4326
)

spatial_buffer_vfold_cv(
    Smithsonian_sf,
    buffer = 500,
    radius = NULL
)

data(ames, package = "modeldata")
ames_sf <- sf::st_as_sf(ames, coords = c("Longitude", "Latitude"), crs = 4326)
ames_neighborhoods <- spatial_leave_location_out_cv(ames_sf, Neighborhood)</pre>
```

spatial\_clustering\_cv Spatial Clustering Cross-Validation

## Description

Spatial clustering cross-validation splits the data into V groups of disjointed sets by clustering points based on their spatial coordinates. A resample of the analysis data consists of V-1 of the folds/clusters while the assessment set contains the final fold/cluster.

## Usage

```
spatial_clustering_cv(
  data,
  v = 10,
  cluster_function = c("kmeans", "hclust"),
  radius = NULL,
  buffer = NULL,
  ...,
  repeats = 1,
```

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```
distance_function = function(x) as.dist(sf::st_distance(x))
)
```

#### Arguments

data An sf object (often from sf::read\_sf() or sf::st\_as\_sf()) to split into

folds.

v The number of partitions of the data set.

cluster\_function

Which function should be used for clustering? Options are either "kmeans" (to

use stats::kmeans()) or "hclust" (to use stats::hclust()). You can also

provide your own function; see Details.

radius Numeric: points within this distance of the initially-selected test points will be

assigned to the assessment set. If NULL, no radius is applied.

buffer Numeric: points within this distance of any point in the test set (after radius is

applied) will be assigned to neither the analysis or assessment set. If NULL, no

buffer is applied.

... Extra arguments passed on to stats::kmeans() or stats::hclust().

repeats The number of times to repeat the clustered partitioning.

distance\_function

Which function should be used for distance calculations? Defaults to sf::st\_distance(), with the output matrix converted to a stats::dist() object. You can also pro-

vide your own function; see Details.

#### **Details**

Clusters are created based on the distances between observations if data is an sf object. Each cluster is used as a fold for cross-validation. Depending on how the data are distributed spatially, there may not be an equal number of observations in each fold.

You can optionally provide a custom function to distance\_function. The function should take an sf object and return a stats::dist() object with distances between data points.

You can optionally provide a custom function to cluster\_function. The function must take three arguments:

- dists, a stats::dist() object with distances between data points
- v, a length-1 numeric for the number of folds to create
- ..., to pass any additional named arguments to your function

The function should return a vector of cluster assignments of length nrow(data), with each element of the vector corresponding to the matching row of the data frame.

### Value

A tibble with classes spatial\_clustering\_cv, spatial\_rset, rset, tbl\_df, tbl, and data. frame. The results include a column for the data split objects and an identification variable id. Resamples created from non-sf objects will not have the spatial\_rset class.

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## Changes in spatialsample 0.3.0

As of spatialsample version 0.3.0, this function no longer accepts non-sf objects as arguments to data. In order to perform clustering with non-spatial data, consider using rsample::clustering\_cv().

Also as of version 0.3.0, this function now calculates edge-to-edge distance for non-point geometries, in line with the rest of the package. Earlier versions relied upon between-centroid distances.

#### References

A. Brenning, "Spatial cross-validation and bootstrap for the assessment of prediction rules in remote sensing: The R package sperrorest," 2012 IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium, Munich, 2012, pp. 5372-5375, doi: 10.1109/IGARSS.2012.6352393.

## **Examples**

```
data(Smithsonian, package = "modeldata")

smithsonian_sf <- sf::st_as_sf(
    Smithsonian,
    coords = c("longitude", "latitude"),
    # Set CRS to WGS84
    crs = 4326
)

# When providing sf objects, coords are inferred automatically
spatial_clustering_cv(smithsonian_sf, v = 5)

# Can use hclust instead:
spatial_clustering_cv(smithsonian_sf, v = 5, cluster_function = "hclust")</pre>
```

spatial\_nndm\_cv

Nearest neighbor distance matching (NNDM) cross-validation

## Description

NNDM is a variant of leave-one-out cross-validation which assigns each observation to a single assessment fold, and then attempts to remove data from each analysis fold until the nearest neighbor distance distribution between assessment and analysis folds matches the nearest neighbor distance distribution between training data and the locations a model will be used to predict. Proposed by Milà et al. (2022), this method aims to provide accurate estimates of how well models will perform in the locations they will actually be predicting. This method was originally implemented in the CAST package.

#### Usage

```
spatial_nndm_cv(
  data,
  prediction_sites,
```

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```
...,
autocorrelation_range = NULL,
prediction_sample_size = 1000,
min_analysis_proportion = 0.5
)
```

#### **Arguments**

data

An object of class sf or sfc.

prediction\_sites

An sf or sfc object describing the areas to be predicted. If prediction\_sites are all points, then those points are treated as the intended prediction points when calculating target nearest neighbor distances. If prediction\_sites is a single (multi-)polygon, then points are sampled from within the boundaries of that polygon. Otherwise, if prediction\_sites is of length > 1 and not made up of points, then points are sampled from within the bounding box of prediction\_sites and used as the intended prediction points.

. . .

Additional arguments passed to sf::st\_sample(). Note that the number of points to sample is controlled by prediction\_sample\_size; trying to pass size via ... will cause an error.

autocorrelation\_range

A numeric of length 1 representing the landscape autocorrelation range ("phi" in the terminology of Milà et al. (2022)). If NULL, the default, the autocorrelation range is assumed to be the distance between the opposite corners of the bounding box of prediction\_sites.

prediction\_sample\_size

A numeric of length 1: the number of points to sample when prediction\_sites is not only composed of points. Note that this argument is passed to size in sf::st\_sample(), meaning that no elements of ... can be named size.

min\_analysis\_proportion

The minimum proportion of data that must remain after removing points to match nearest neighbor distances. This function will stop removing data from analysis sets once only min\_analysis\_proportion of the original data remains in analysis sets, even if the nearest neighbor distances between analysis and assessment sets are still lower than those between training and prediction locations.

#### Details

Note that, as a form of leave-one-out cross-validation, this method can be rather slow for larger data (and fitting models to these resamples will be even slower).

#### Value

A tibble with classes spatial\_nndm\_cv, spatial\_rset, rset, tbl\_df, tbl, and data.frame. The results include a column for the data split objects and an identification variable id.

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#### References

C. Milà, J. Mateu, E. Pebesma, and H. Meyer. 2022. "Nearest Neighbour Distance Matching Leave-One-Out Cross-Validation for map validation." Methods in Ecology and Evolution 2022:13, pp 1304–1316. doi: 10.1111/2041-210X.13851.

H. Meyer and E. Pebesma. 2022. "Machine learning-based global maps of ecological variables and the challenge of assessing them." Nature Communications 13, pp 2208. doi: 10.1038/s41467-022-29838-9.

## **Examples**

```
data(ames, package = "modeldata")
ames_sf <- sf::st_as_sf(ames, coords = c("Longitude", "Latitude"), crs = 4326)
# Using a small subset of the data, to make the example run faster:
spatial_nndm_cv(ames_sf[1:100, ], ames_sf[2001:2100, ])</pre>
```

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