

Package ‘landscapeR’

May 8, 2026

Type Package

Title Categorical Landscape Simulation Facility

Version 1.3.1

Date 2024-12-08

Maintainer Dario Masante <dario.masante@gmail.com>

Copyright Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH)

URL <https://github.com/dariomasante/landscapeR>

BugReports <https://github.com/dariomasante/landscapeR/issues>

Description Simulates categorical maps on actual geographical realms, starting from either empty landscapes or landscapes provided by the user (e.g. land use maps). Allows to tweak or create landscapes while retaining a high degree of control on its features, without the hassle of specifying each location attribute. In this it differs from other tools which generate null or neutral landscapes in a theoretical space. The basic algorithm currently implemented uses a simple agent style/cellular automata growth model, with no rules (apart from areas of exclusion) and von Neumann neighbourhood (four cells, aka Rook case). Outputs are raster dataset exportable to any common GIS format.

License GPL (>= 2)

Imports terra, Rcpp (>= 1.0.3)

Suggests markdown, knitr

VignetteBuilder knitr

LinkingTo Rcpp

RoxygenNote 7.3.2

Encoding UTF-8

NeedsCompilation yes

Author Dario Masante [aut, cre],
Lora Murphy [ctb]

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2024-12-07 17:50:02 UTC

Contents

landscapeR-package	2
expandClass	3
makeClass	4
makeLine	5
makePatch	6
rmSingle	8
Index	10

landscapeR-package	<i>landscapeR: A landscape simulator for R.</i>
--------------------	---

Description

This package is aimed at simulating categorical landscapes on actual geographical realms, starting from either empty landscapes, or landscapes provided by the user (e.g. land use maps). landscapeR allows to tweak or create landscapes while retaining a high degree of control on its features, without the hassle of specifying each location attribute. In this it differs from other tools which generate null or neutral landscape in a theoretical space. The basic algorithm currently implemented uses a simple agent style/cellular automata growth model, with no rules (apart from areas of exclusion). Outputs are raster dataset exportable to any common GIS format.

Details

Check out the vignette illustrating the use of landscapeR.
 Also: <https://github.com/dariomasante/landscapeR>

landscapeR functions

- [makePatch](#) creates a single patch in the landscape.
- [makeClass](#) creates a group of patches belonging to the same class.
- [expandClass](#) expands an existing class of patches.
- [makeLine](#) creates a linear patch.
- [rmSingle](#) removes single tones from patches and background.

Author(s)

Dario Masante [aut, cre], Lora Murphy [ctb]

expandClass	<i>Expand an existing class of patches.</i>
-------------	---

Description

Expand an existing class of patches.

Usage

```
expandClass(context, class, size, bgr = 0, pts = NULL)
```

Arguments

context	SpatRaster object or matrix, an empty landscape raster or a mask indicating where the patch cannot be generated (see bgr below).
class	The raster value of class (or patch) to expand.
size	integer. Size of expansion, as number of raster cells.
bgr	integer. The background available where expansion is allowed (i.e. shrinking classes).
pts	integer or matrix. The seed point location around which the patches are built (random points are given by default). It can be an integer, as indexes of the cells in the raster, or a two columns matrix indicating x and y coordinates.

Value

A SpatRaster object. If rast=FALSE returns a list of vectors, each containing the context cells assigned to each patch.

Examples

```
library(terra)

m = matrix(0, 33, 33)
r = rast(m)
ext(r) = c(0, 10, 0, 10)
r = makeClass(r, 5, 10)
plot(r)

rr = expandClass(r, 1, 100)
plot(rr)

## This function can be used to mimic shapes, by providing a skeleton:
m[,17] = 1
r = rast(m)
ext(r) = c(0, 10, 0, 10)
plot(r)

rr = expandClass(r, 1, 100)
plot(rr)
```

 makeClass

Create a class of patches.

Description

Create a class of patches.

Usage

```
makeClass(
  context,
  npatch,
  size,
  pts = NULL,
  bgr = 0,
  edge = FALSE,
  rast = TRUE,
  val = 1
)
```

Arguments

context	SpatRaster object, a raster of an empty landscape or a mask, indicating where the patch cannot be generated (see bgr argument).
npatch	number of patches per class
size	integer. The size of patches, as number of raster cells. A single integer can be provided, in which case all patches will have that size.
pts	integer or matrix. The seed point location around which the patches are built (random points are given by default). It can be an integer, as indexes of the cells in the raster, or a two columns matrix indicating x and y coordinates.
bgr	integer. A single value of background cells, where a patch can be generated (default is zero). Cells/classes which cannot be changed must have a different value.
edge	logical. Should the vector of edge cells of the patch be returned?
rast	logical. If TRUE returns a SpatRaster object, otherwise a vector of cell numbers where the patch occurs
val	integer. The value to be assigned to patch cells, when rast=TRUE

Details

The patches created can be contiguous, therefore resembling a single patch with size equal to the sum of contiguous cells. The patches are created starting from the seed points (if provided) and iteratively sampling randomly neighbouring cells at the edge of the patch, according to von Neumann neighbourhood (four cells, aka Rook case). There is a tolerance of +/- 3 cells from the patch size declared in size argument.

Value

A SpatRaster object, or a vector of cell numbers if rast=FALSE.

Examples

```
library(terra)
mtx = matrix(0, 33, 33)
r = rast(mtx)
ext(r) = c(0, 10, 0, 10)
num = 5
size = 15
rr = makeClass(r, num, size)
plot(rr)

## Create a class of three patches of given size at three corners of the spatial context
size = c(10, 50, 200)
pts = c(1, 33, 1089)
rr = makeClass(r, 3, size, pts)
plot(rr)
```

makeLine

Create a linear patch (beta version).

Description

Create a linear patch, setting direction and convolution. The higher the convolution degree, the weaker the linear shape (and direction).

Usage

```
makeLine(
  context,
  size,
  direction = NULL,
  convol = 0.5,
  spt = NULL,
  bgr = 0,
  edge = FALSE,
  rast = FALSE,
  val = 1
)
```

Arguments

context	SpatRaster object or matrix, an empty landscape raster or a mask indicating where the patch cannot be generated (see bgr below).
size	integer. Size of the patch to be generated, as number of raster cells.

direction	numeric. The direction towards which the patch will point and grow, expressed in degrees between 0 and 360.
convol	numeric. Level of convolution to be assigned to the patch (default is convol=0.5). A value between 0 and 1, where 0 is no convolution at all (basically a straight line) and 1 is maximum convolution (i.e. tends to form a circular patch).
spt	integer or matrix. The seed point location around which the patch is generated (a random point is given by default). It can be an integer, as index of the cell in the raster, or a two columns matrix indicating x and y coordinates (an integer vector of length 2 is accepted too).
bgr	integer. A single value of background cells, where a patch can be generated (default is zero). Cells/classes which cannot be changed must have a different value.
edge	logical. Should the vector of edge cells of the patch be returned?
rast	logical. If TRUE returns a SpatRaster object, otherwise a vector of cell numbers where the patch occurs
val	integer. The value to be assigned to patch cells, when rast=TRUE

Details

For any values of convol > 0.8, no big differences are observed noted. Also direction is progressively lost as convolution increases.

Value

A vector of raster cell numbers, or a SpatRaster object if rast=TRUE. If edge=TRUE a list of two vectors is returned: one for the inner raster cells and the second for cells at the edge of the patch.

Examples

```
library(terra)
r <- matrix(0,33,33)
r <- rast(r)
ext(r) = c(0, 10, 0, 10)
plot(makeLine(r, size=50, spt = 545, direction=45, convol=0.05, rast=TRUE))
```

makePatch

Create a single patch

Description

Function will create a single patch. **NOTE:** makeClass should be used preferably when creating a single patch, as better error and exception handling is provided.

Usage

```
makePatch(
  context,
  size,
  spt = NULL,
  bgr = 0,
  edge = FALSE,
  rast = FALSE,
  val = 1
)
```

Arguments

context	SpatRaster object or matrix, an empty landscape raster or a mask indicating where the patch cannot be generated (see bgr below).
size	integer. Size of the patch to be generated, as number of raster cells.
spt	integer or matrix. The seed point location around which the patch is generated (a random point is given by default). It can be an integer, as index of the cell in the raster, or a two columns matrix indicating x and y coordinates (an integer vector of length 2 is accepted too).
bgr	integer. A single value of background cells, where a patch can be generated (default is zero). Cells/classes which cannot be changed must have a different value.
edge	logical. Should the vector of edge cells of the patch be returned?
rast	logical. If TRUE returns a SpatRaster object, otherwise a vector of cell numbers where the patch occurs
val	integer. The value to be assigned to patch cells, when rast=TRUE

Details

The patch is created starting from the seed point and iteratively sampling randomly neighbouring cells at the edge of the patch, according to von Neumann neighbourhood (four cells, aka Rook case). There is a tolerance of +/- 3 cells from the patch size declared in size argument. Argument bgr accepts a single value only, unlike makeClass that accepts multiple and should therefore preferred.

Value

A vector of raster cell numbers, or a SpatRaster object if rast=TRUE. If edge=TRUE a list of two vectors is returned: one for the inner raster cells and the second for cells at the edge of the patch.

Examples

```
library(terra)
mtx = matrix(0, 33, 33)
r = rast(mtx)
ext(r) = c(0, 10, 0, 10)
patchSize = 500
```

```

rr = makePatch(r, patchSize, rast=TRUE)
plot(rr)

## Create a patch with value 3, starting from the centre cell
mtx = matrix(0, 33, 33)
r = rast(mtx)
ext(r) = c(0, 10, 0, 10)
newVal = 3
centre = 545
cells = makePatch(r, patchSize, centre)
values(r) = newVal
plot(r)

## Now create a new patch with value 10 and size 100 inside the existing patch
rr = makePatch(r, 100, bgr=newVal, rast=TRUE, val=10)
plot(rr)

```

rmSingle

Remove single tones from patches

Description

Patch creation algorithm can occasionally leave single cells scattered within patches. This function reduces the "salt-pepper" effect, identifying or correcting those cells.

Usage

```
rmSingle(rst, rm = TRUE)
```

Arguments

rst	input raster landscape.
rm	logical, if TRUE returns the raster without single tones cells, if FALSE a vector of numbers identifying the index of single tones cells.

Value

A raster without single tones cells. If rm=FALSE, it returns a vector of numbers identifying the index of single tones cells. The value assigned to single tone cells is picked from one of the four neighbouring cells, selected at random.

Examples

```

library(terra)
m = matrix(0, 33, 33)
r = rast(m)
ext(r) = c(0, 10, 0, 10)
patchSize = 500

```

```
## Make a patch and introduce a single tone cell
r = makePatch(r, patchSize, spt=578, rast=TRUE)
r[578] = 0
plot(r)

## Now remove it
plot( rmSingle(r) )

## Single tones can be identified but not removed:
rmSingle(r, rm = FALSE)
```

Index

`expandClass`, [2](#), [3](#)

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

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

`makeClass`, [2](#), [4](#)

`makeLine`, [2](#), [5](#)

`makePatch`, [2](#), [6](#)

`rmSingle`, [2](#), [8](#)