

Package ‘dots’

September 12, 2025

Title Dot Density Maps

Version 0.0.3

Description Generate point data for representing people within spatial data. This collects a suite of tools for creating simple dot density maps. Several functions from different spatial packages are standardized to take the same arguments so that they can be easily substituted for each other.

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Encoding UTF-8

LazyData true

RoxygenNote 7.3.2

Imports ggplot2, rlang, rmapshaper, sf, terra, purrr, dplyr, sp

URL <https://github.com/christopherkenny/dots>,
<http://christophertkenny.com/dots/>

BugReports <https://github.com/christopherkenny/dots/issues>

Depends R (>= 4.1.0)

Suggests knitr, rmarkdown, testthat (>= 3.0.0), wacolors

VignetteBuilder knitr

Config/testthat/edition 3

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Contents

boston_water	2
clip_water	3
dots	3
dots_points	4
engine_sf_hexagonal	5
engine_sf_random	5
engine_sf_regular	6
engine_sp_clustered	7
engine_sp_hexagonal	7
engine_sp_nonaligned	8
engine_sp_random	9
engine_sp_regular	9
engine_sp_stratified	10
engine_terra	11
filter_pts	11
suffolk	12
Index	13

boston_water	<i>Boston Water</i>
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Description

This data contains the largest named water within Suffolk County MA, with geographies simplified.

Usage

```
data("boston_water")
```

Format

An sf dataframe with 10 observations

Examples

```
data('boston_water')
```

clip_water	<i>Remove Water</i>
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Description

Remove Water

Usage

```
clip_water(shp, water, filter_islands = FALSE, ...)
```

Arguments

shp	input shp with sf geometry.
water	water shapes to remove with sf geometry
filter_islands	logical. Should additional filtering be done to remove small areas?
...	additional arguments to pass to <code>rmapshaper::ms_filter_islands()</code> . Only used if <code>filter_islands = TRUE</code> .

Value

tibble with sf geometries

Examples

```
# time to run varies greatly, depending on machine
data(suffolk)
data(boston_water)
clip_water(suffolk, boston_water[10, ])
```

dots	<i>Make dot density plots</i>
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Description

Make dot density plots

Usage

```
dots(
  shp,
  cols,
  engine = engine_terra,
  divisor = 250,
  min_point = 0.1 * divisor
)
```

Arguments

shp	input shp with sf geometry.
cols	<tidy-select> columns to produce dots for.
engine	backend to use. Default is engine_terra.
divisor	Number of people per dot. Default is 250.
min_point	Minimum number of people to generate one dot. Defaults to 10% of the divisor.

Value

A ggplot

Examples

```
data('suffolk')
# subset to first 20 rows for speed on CRAN
dots(suffolk[1:20, ], c(vap_black), divisor = 2000)
```

dots_points	<i>Make dot density points</i>
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Description

Make dot density points

Usage

```
dots_points(
  shp,
  cols,
  engine = engine_terra,
  divisor = 250,
  min_point = 0.1 * divisor
)
```

Arguments

shp	input shp with sf geometry.
cols	<tidy-select> columns to produce dots for.
engine	backend to use. Default is engine_terra.
divisor	Number of people per dot. Default is 250.
min_point	Minimum number of people to generate one dot. Defaults to 10% of the divisor.

Value

tibble with sf geometries

Examples

```
data('suffolk')
# subset to first 20 rows for speed on CRAN
dots_points(suffolk[1:20, ], c(vap_black))
```

engine_sf_hexagonal	<i>Generate Hexagonal Points with sf</i>
---------------------	--

Description

Uses `sf::st_sample()` to produce points and spatial joins with input `shp`. Each engine function takes the same arguments and produces comparable outputs. Final number of points may be approximate for this method.

Usage

```
engine_sf_hexagonal(shp, col)
```

Arguments

<code>shp</code>	input shp with <code>sf</code> geometry.
<code>col</code>	character column name to produce points with

Value

tibble with `sf` geometries

Examples

```
set.seed(1)
data('suffolk')
engine_sf_hexagonal(suffolk[16:20,], 'pop_nhpi')
```

engine_sf_random	<i>Generate Random Points with sf</i>
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Description

Uses `sf::st_sample()` to produce points and spatial joins with input `shp`. Each engine function takes the same arguments and produces comparable outputs.

Usage

```
engine_sf_random(shp, col)
```

Arguments

shp input shp with sf geometry.
 col character column name to produce points with

Value

tibble with sf geometries

Examples

```
set.seed(1)
data('suffolk')
engine_sf_random(suffolk[16:20,], 'pop_nhpi')
```

engine_sf_regular	<i>Generate Regular Points with sf</i>
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Description

Uses `sf::st_sample()` to produce points and spatial joins with input shp. Each engine function takes the same arguments and produces comparable outputs. Final number of points may be approximate for this method.

Usage

```
engine_sf_regular(shp, col)
```

Arguments

shp input shp with sf geometry.
 col character column name to produce points with

Value

tibble with sf geometries

Examples

```
set.seed(1)
data('suffolk')
engine_sf_regular(suffolk[16:20,], 'pop_nhpi')
```

engine_sp_clustered	<i>Generate Clustered Points with sp</i>
---------------------	--

Description

Uses `sp::spsample()` with method "clustered" to produce points, converts back to `sf`, and spatial joins with input `shp`. Each engine function takes the same arguments and produces comparable outputs. Final number of points may be approximate for this method.

Usage

```
engine_sp_clustered(shp, col)
```

Arguments

<code>shp</code>	input <code>shp</code> with <code>sf</code> geometry.
<code>col</code>	character column name to produce points with

Value

tibble with `sf` geometries

Examples

```
set.seed(1)
data('suffolk')
engine_sp_clustered(suffolk[16:20, ], 'pop_nhpi')
```

engine_sp_hexagonal	<i>Generate Hexagonal Points with sp</i>
---------------------	--

Description

Uses `sp::spsample()` with method "hexagonal" to produce points, converts back to `sf`, and spatial joins with input `shp`. Each engine function takes the same arguments and produces comparable outputs. Final number of points may be approximate for this method.

Usage

```
engine_sp_hexagonal(shp, col)
```

Arguments

<code>shp</code>	input <code>shp</code> with <code>sf</code> geometry.
<code>col</code>	character column name to produce points with

Value

tibble with sf geometries

Examples

```
set.seed(1)
data('suffolk')
engine_sp_hexagonal(suffolk[16:20, ], 'pop_nhpi')
```

engine_sp_nonaligned *Generate Nonaligned Points with sp*

Description

Uses `sp::spsample()` with method "nonaligned" to produce points, converts back to sf, and spatial joins with input shp. Each engine function takes the same arguments and produces comparable outputs. Final number of points may be approximate for this method.

Usage

```
engine_sp_nonaligned(shp, col)
```

Arguments

shp	input shp with sf geometry.
col	character column name to produce points with

Value

tibble with sf geometries

Examples

```
set.seed(1)
data('suffolk')
engine_sp_nonaligned(suffolk[16:20, ], 'pop_nhpi')
```

engine_sp_random	<i>Generate Random Points with sp</i>
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Description

Uses `sp::spsample()` with method "random" to produce points, converts back to `sf`, and spatial joins with input `shp`. Each engine function takes the same arguments and produces comparable outputs. Final number of points may be approximate for this method.

Usage

```
engine_sp_random(shp, col)
```

Arguments

<code>shp</code>	input <code>shp</code> with <code>sf</code> geometry.
<code>col</code>	character column name to produce points with

Value

tibble with `sf` geometries

Examples

```
set.seed(1)
data('suffolk')
engine_sp_random(suffolk[16:20,], 'pop_nhpi')
```

engine_sp_regular	<i>Generate Regular Points with sp</i>
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Description

Uses `sp::spsample()` with method "regular" to produce points, converts back to `sf`, and spatial joins with input `shp`. Each engine function takes the same arguments and produces comparable outputs. Final number of points may be approximate for this method.

Usage

```
engine_sp_regular(shp, col)
```

Arguments

<code>shp</code>	input <code>shp</code> with <code>sf</code> geometry.
<code>col</code>	character column name to produce points with

Value

tibble with sf geometries

Examples

```
set.seed(1)
data('suffolk')
engine_sp_regular(suffolk[16:20,], 'pop_nhpi')
```

engine_sp_stratified	<i>Generate Stratified Points with sp</i>
----------------------	---

Description

Uses `sp::spsample()` with method "regular" to produce points, converts back to sf, and spatial joins with input shp. Each engine function takes the same arguments and produces comparable outputs. Final number of points may be approximate for this method.

Usage

```
engine_sp_stratified(shp, col)
```

Arguments

shp	input shp with sf geometry.
col	character column name to produce points with

Value

tibble with sf geometries

Examples

```
set.seed(1)
data('suffolk')
engine_sp_stratified(suffolk[16:20, ], 'pop_nhpi')
```

engine_terra	<i>Generate Points with terra</i>
--------------	-----------------------------------

Description

Uses `terra::dots()` to produce points and transforms back to `sf`. Each engine function takes the same arguments and produces comparable outputs.

Usage

```
engine_terra(shp, col)
```

Arguments

shp	input shp with <code>sf</code> geometry.
col	character column name to produce points with

Value

tibble with `sf` geometries

Examples

```
set.seed(1)
data('suffolk')
engine_terra(suffolk, 'pop_nhpi')
```

filter_pts	<i>Filter Points to a Region</i>
------------	----------------------------------

Description

Filter Points to a Region

Usage

```
filter_pts(pts, shp, cond = TRUE)
```

Arguments

pts	points with <code>sf</code> geometry to filter
shp	shp to filter to
cond	geometry subset to reduce shp to

Value

tibble with sf geometries

Examples

```
data(suffolk)
pts <- dots_points(suffolk, pop, divisor = 1000)
filter_pts(pts, suffolk, pop < 1000)
```

suffolk	<i>Suffolk County, MA Voting Districts</i>
---------	--

Description

This data contains the voting districts for Suffolk County MA, with geographies simplified.

Usage

```
data("suffolk")
```

Format

An sf dataframe with 295 observations

Examples

```
data('suffolk')
```

Index

* **data**

- boston_water, [2](#)
- suffolk, [12](#)

boston_water, [2](#)

clip_water, [3](#)

dots, [3](#)

dots_points, [4](#)

engine_sf_hexagonal, [5](#)

engine_sf_random, [5](#)

engine_sf_regular, [6](#)

engine_sp_clustered, [7](#)

engine_sp_hexagonal, [7](#)

engine_sp_nonaligned, [8](#)

engine_sp_random, [9](#)

engine_sp_regular, [9](#)

engine_sp_stratified, [10](#)

engine_terra, [11](#)

filter_pts, [11](#)

suffolk, [12](#)