

chirps: API Client for the CHIRPS Precipitation Data in R

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Summary

The *chirps* package provides functionalities for reproducible analysis in R (R Core Team 2019) using the CHIRPS data (Funk et al. 2015). Three main functions are provided, `get_chirps()`, `get_esi()` and `precip_indices()`. The `get_chirps()` function provides access to CHIRPS data via the ClimateSERV API Client (SERVIR Global 2019a) with methods to handle objects of class ‘data.frame’, ‘geojson’ and ‘sf’ via the package *methods* (R Core Team 2019). To accept the query, ClimateSERV requires a geojson object of type ‘Polygon’ (one single polygon per request). Using the package *sf* (Pebesma 2018) internally, the input provided in `get_chirps()` is transformed into a list of polygons with a small buffer area (0.0001 arc-sec by default) around the point and transformed into a list of geojson strings. If multiple points are required, `get_chirps()` does this process with a `lapply()` internal process. *chirps* uses *crul* (Chamberlain 2019) to interface with ClimateSERV API. The query returns a json object parsed to *jsonlite* (Ooms 2014) to obtain the data frame for the time series required. `get_chirps()` returns a *tibble* data frame (Müller and Wickham 2019), which also inherits the class ‘chirps’, where each id represents the index for the rows in the in-putted ‘object’. The function `get_esi()` behaves similarly to `get_chirps()` and returns the Evaporative Stress Index (ESI) data (Anderson et al. 2011), but the output does not inherit the class ‘chirps’. Users providing objects of class ‘sf’ and ‘geojson’ in `get_chirps()` and `get_esi()` can also opt to return an object with the same class as the object provided using the arguments ‘as.sf = TRUE’ or ‘as.geojson = TRUE’. With the function `precip_indices()` it is possible to track how the precipitation changes across the requested time series using precipitation variability indices (Aguilar et al. 2005), computed using *stats* (R Core Team 2019). Extended documentation is provided with examples on how to increase the buffer area and draw quadrants for the geojson polygon using *sf* (Pebesma 2018).

This process can be integrated into workflows like van Etten et al. (2019) to track how crop varieties responds to seasonal climate variability, and de Sousa et al. (2018) to assess how extreme precipitation events are changing in a regional time series analysis.

About CHIRPS and ESI data

CHIRPS is daily precipitation data set developed by the Climate Hazards Group (Funk et al. 2015) for high resolution precipitation gridded data. Spanning 50° S to 50° N (and

all longitudes) and ranging from 1981 to near-present, CHIRPS incorporates 0.05 arc-degree resolution satellite imagery, and in-situ station data to create gridded precipitation time series for trend analysis and seasonal drought monitoring (Funk et al. 2015). The Evaporative Stress Index (ESI) data describes temporal anomalies in evapotranspiration produced weekly at 0.25 arc-degree resolution for the entire globe (Anderson et al. 2011). The ESI data is based on satellite observations of land surface temperature, which are used to estimate water loss due to evapotranspiration (the sum of evaporation and plant transpiration from the Earth's land and ocean surface to the atmosphere). When using these data sets in publications please cite Funk et al. (2015) for CHIRPS and SERVIR Global (2019b) for ESI.

A case study in the Tapajós National Forest

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