

Package sampley

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Authors

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Description

The sampley package serves to sample survey data (hence ‘sampley’; sample + survey). By ‘survey data’, we refer principally to systematic visual survey data, although the sampley package may also be applicable to other kinds of survey data. By ‘sample’, we mean process those data to produce distinct samples that can then be input to a model. For more information on, please consult the General Notes section of this User Manual.

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General Notes

Data

The sampley package has been developed to process data collected during systematic visual surveys for species great and small (e.g., line-transect surveys) into a form that can be input to a model (e.g., a species distribution model). Nevertheless, it may also be applicable to other kinds of survey data (e.g., non-systematic surveys or acoustic surveys), assuming they meet the following requirements.

At a base level, what is required is a survey track (i.e., the route taken by an observer or observers during a survey) and, ideally, datapoints that were collected during that survey (e.g., sightings or in-situ recordings of environmental variables). As the data are collected during a survey, they should be 'on-line' (i.e., on the survey track), with the potential exception of sightings, which may be 'off-line' if their location is determined, for example, via distance sampling.

The sampley package is not meant for extracting or processing data from other sources (e.g., sea surface temperature data from a satellite database or depth measurements from a bathymetry layer), although it does provide the parameters necessary to facilitate these steps.

Stages

The process followed when implementing the sampley package follows three stages:

Stage 1 – inputting

Stage 2 – delimiting

Stage 3 – sampling

The manual is structured to follow these three stages with more information on each stage found in each corresponding section of the manual.

Classes and Objects

The sampley package contains 9 custom classes. Some or all of these classes may be used during processing, depending on the user's requirements. The classes are listed below according to the stage in which they are made:

Stage 1: DataPoints, Sections

Stage 2: Periods, Cells, Segments, Presences, AbsenceLines, Absences

Stage 3: Samples

More detail on each class is given under their respective Stage subheadings.

In this manual, an instance of a class is referred to as an object (e.g., an instance of a DataPoints class is referred to as a DataPoints object). Objects are always written with an initial uppercase, while the

values that they contain have the same name but are written with lowercase (e.g., 'Segments' refers to a Segments object, whereas 'segments' refers to the segments themselves).

Attributes

Each object has a *name* attribute and a *parameters* attribute which contain the name of the object and key parameters relating to it, respectively.

Most objects have a third attribute called the same as the class but in lower case (e.g., a DataPoints object has a *datapoints* attribute, a Cells object has a *cells* attribute) that contains the values within a dataframe (specifically, a pandas.DataFrame or a geopandas.GeoDataFrame).

Within this dataframe, each row is a value of that type (e.g., a DataPoints object has a datapoints attribute which is a dataframe where each row is a datapoint, a Segments object has a segments attribute which is a dataframe where each row is a segment).

To access a given attribute, use the object's name, a full stop, and the attribute's name (e.g., to access the parameters attribute of an object called u_datapoints, use u_datapoints.parameters).

Further detail on attributes for each class is given later in the manual.

Methods

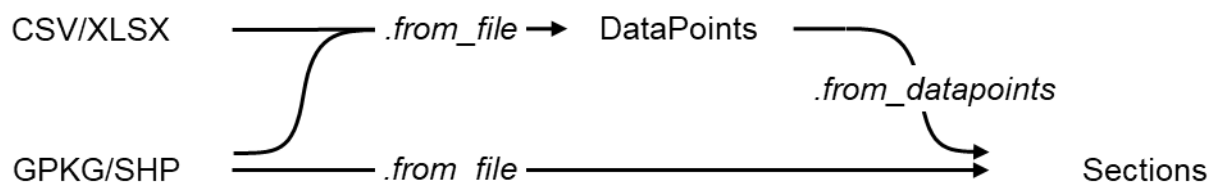
Each class has methods that can be divided into two categories: class methods and standard methods.

Class methods are used to make an object of that class. For example, to make a DataPoints object, the user can use the *from_file* class method. Broadly speaking, the classes in Stage 1 have a *from_file* class method, those in Stage 2 have a *delimit* class method, while the Samples class has various class methods depending on the approach used.

Standard methods are used to apply a function to an object that has already been made. The standard methods vary between classes though most have a *plot* and a *save* method to plot and save the object, respectively.

Paths

Throughout the manual, there are figures that illustrate the possible paths that can be taken to conduct processing, such as the example below:



For all these figures, please note the following.

Objects are written in normal font (e.g., DataPoints, Sections), class methods for making those objects and standard methods for modifying them are written in italics (e.g., *.from_file*, *.from_datapoints*). The methods belong to the object that their arrow points to (e.g., *.from_datapoints* belongs to Sections).

Lines indicate which methods each object is input to or output from. If two lines merge before entering a method, then either of those objects can be input, if they enter separately, then both must be input. In addition to the input objects, each method will require values for several parameters that are not included in the diagram but are detailed in the corresponding sections in the manual.

Output

To facilitate the saving of objects, an output folder should be created where all output objects will be saved. The name of each saved file will be derived automatically from the name of the object.

Help

To get more information on any method, its parameters, and its output, use `help(METHOD)` where METHOD is the method's name (without brackets). For example, to get information on the `Sections.from_file()` method, write `help(Sections.from_file)`.

Stages

Stage 1 – inputting data

To conduct processing, each input file has to be wrangled into one of two classes of objects: Sections and/or DataPoints. In most scenarios, a Sections object and at least one DataPoints object will be necessary to conduct processing. Once any Sections and/or DataPoints objects have been made, they will form the basis from which all subsequent objects are derived. Moreover, any Sections and/or DataPoints objects will not change during processing. This allows for an unlimited number of objects to be derived from them (e.g., if the user wants to process the data via more than one approach).

Input filetypes

The input files can be any of the following types: GeoPackage (GPKG), Shapefile (SHP), Comma-separated values (CSV), or Microsoft Excel (XLSX) – although use of GPKG and CSVs is recommended.

Coordinate Reference System (CRS)

For processing, it is necessary for all data to be in a projected CRS, preferably one that preserves distance and uses metres. If the input files are not in an appropriate CRS, they can be reprojected during input. Please note that objects with different CRSs will be incompatible.

Timezone (TZ)

Input files may have datetimes, dates, or no temporal data, although some options will not be possible if temporal data are absent. If input files have datetimes or dates, timezones can be set and, additionally, datetimes can be converted to a different timezone during input. Please note that objects with different timezones will be incompatible.

Paths

A DataPoints object can be made from a CSV, XLSX, GPKG, or SHP file by using the DataPoints.from_file class method (Fig 1). A Sections object can be made from a GPKG or SHP file by using the Sections.from_file class method (Fig 1). Alternatively, a Sections object can be made from a DataPoints object by using the Sections.from_datapoints class method (Fig 1).

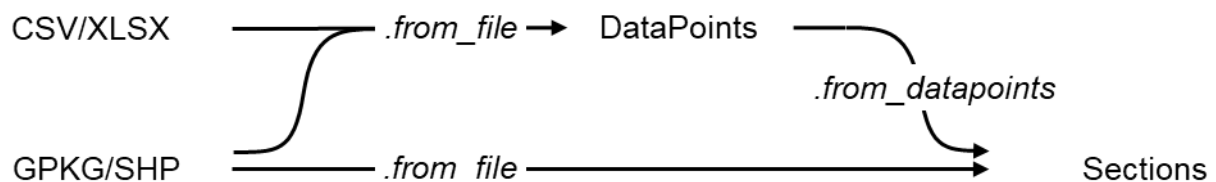


Fig 1. A graphical representation of Stage 1.

DataPoints

A DataPoints object is used for storing datapoints, where each datapoint is simply a point (in space and time) with associated data. For example, each datapoint could be a sighting with information on the number of individuals, a recording of environmental data such as Beaufort sea state and wind speed, or even a simple GPS point with nothing more than latitude and longitude.

The datapoints can be either continuous or sporadic. Continuous datapoints are recorded at frequent, regular intervals and so can be used to construct a trackline. For example, points recorded by a GPS every 10 seconds can be considered continuous. Sporadic datapoints are recorded at infrequent, irregular intervals and so cannot be used to construct a trackline. For example, sightings should typically be considered sporadic, as should environmental datapoints recorded only at the beginning and end of transects. The difference between continuous and sporadic datapoints does not affect how a given DataPoints object is made, but it does affect what can be done with that DataPoints object and so should be kept in mind.

Attributes

datapoints: a dataframe containing the datapoints

A `geopandas.GeoDataFrame` with the following key columns:
`datapoint_id`: a unique identifier for each datapoint
`geometry`: the geometry of each datapoint as a `shapely.Point`
`datetime`: the datetime of each point as a `pd.Timestamp` (or `None` if no datetimes are entered)

Additionally, the dataframe may contain any number of additional 'data columns' containing data of any type.

name: the name of the DataPoints object

The name of the DataPoints object as a string consisting of 'datapoints-' and the name of the input file.

parameters: the parameters of the DataPoints object

Various parameters pertaining to the DataPoints object contained in a dictionary.

Class methods

from_file: make a DataPoints object from a GPKG, SHP, CSV, or XLSX file.

Takes as input a GPKG, SHP, CSV, or XLSX file that contains the datapoints and reformats it for subsequent processing by: renaming and reordering essential columns; if necessary, reprojecting it to a projected CRS; assigning each datapoint a unique ID.

If loading data from a CSV or XLSX, locations of datapoints must be stored in one of two ways:

two columns (`x_col` and `y_col`) containing x and y (e.g., longitude and latitude) coordinates

one column (`geometry_col`) containing points as WKT geometry objects

Parameters:

`filepath` : str

The path to the file containing the datapoints. Ensure that `filepath` includes the filename and the extension.

`x_col` : str, optional, default 'lon'

If inputting a CSV or XLSX with x and y coordinates, the name of the column containing the x coordinate (e.g., longitude) of each datapoint.

`y_col` : str, optional, default 'lat'

If inputting a CSV or XLSX with x and y coordinates, the name of the column containing the y coordinate (e.g., latitude) of each datapoint.

`geometry_col` : str, optional, default None

If inputting a CSV or XLSX with points as WKT geometry objects, the name of the column containing the WKT geometry objects.

`crs_input` : str | int | pyproj.CRS, optional, default 'EPSG:4326'

If inputting a CSV or XLSX, the CRS of the coordinates/geometries. The CRS must be either: a `pyproj.CRS`; a string in a format accepted by `pyproj.CRS.from_user_input` (e.g., 'EPSG:4326'); or an integer in a format accepted by `pyproj.CRS.from_user_input` (e.g., 4326).

`crs_working` : str | int | pyproj.CRS, optional, default None

The CRS to be used for the subsequent processing. Must be a projected CRS that, preferably, preserves distance and uses metres. The CRS must be either: a `pyproj.CRS`; a string in a format accepted by `pyproj.CRS.from_user_input` (e.g., 'EPSG:4326'); or an integer in a format accepted by `pyproj.CRS.from_user_input` (e.g., 4326).

`datetime_col` : str, optional, default None

If applicable, the name of the column containing the datetime or date of each datapoint.

`tz_input` : str | timezone | pytz.BaseTzInfo, optional, default None

If `datetime_col` is specified, the timezone of the datetimes contained within the column. The timezone must be either: a `datetime.timezone`; a string of a UTC code (e.g., 'UTC+02:00', 'UTC-09:30'); or a string of a timezone name accepted by `pytz` (e.g., 'Europe/Vilnius' or 'Pacific/Marquesas').

`tz_working` : str | timezone | pytz.BaseTzInfo, optional, default None

The timezone to be used for the subsequent processing. The timezone must be either: a `datetime.timezone`; a string of a UTC code (e.g., 'UTC+02:00', 'UTC-09:30'); or a string of a timezone name accepted by `pytz` (e.g., 'Europe/Vilnius' or 'Pacific/Marquesas').

`datapoint_id_col` : str, optional, default None

If applicable, the name of the column containing the datapoint IDs. The datapoint IDs must be unique.

`section_id_col` : str, optional, default None

If subsequently using `Sections.from_datapoints`, the name of the column containing the section IDs. All the Points that make up a given section must have the same section ID so that, when `Sections.from_datapoints` is run, they are grouped together to form a `LineString`.

Returns:

`DataPoints`

Returns a `DataPoints` object with three attributes: `name`, `parameters`, and `datapoints`.

Methods

plot: plot the datapoints

Makes a basic matplotlib plot of the datapoints in greyscale.

Parameters:

`sections` : `Sections`, optional, default `None`

Optionally, a `Sections` object with sections to be plotted with the datapoints.

save: save the datapoints

Saves the datapoints `GeoDataFrame` as a `GPKG`, a `CSV`, or both. The name of the saved file(s) will be the name of the `DataPoints` object.

Parameters:

`folder` : `str`

The path to the output folder where the output files will be saved

`filetype` : {'gpkg', 'csv', 'both'}, optional, default 'gpkg'

The	type	of	file	that	the	datapoints	will	be	saved	as.
	gpkg:								GeoPackage	
	csv:								CSV	
	both:	GeoPackage	and	CSV						

Sections

A Sections object is used for storing sections of survey track, where each section is a stretch of continuous, uniform survey track.

A survey may initially result in a single long track, however, portions of this track are likely to be removed as they do not meet certain requirements (e.g., when weather conditions are poor, when observers are off-watch, when transiting to and from a study area). The remaining portions are the sections. It is up to the user to define what constitutes a section and to designate the sections before processing with sampley.

Attributes

sections: a dataframe containing the sections

A `geopandas.GeoDataFrame` with the following key columns:
`section_id`: a unique identifier for each section
`geometry`: the geometry of each section as a `shapely.LineString`
`datetime`: the datetime of the section as a `pd.Timestamp`

name: the name of the Sections object

The name of the Sections object as a string consisting of 'sections-' and the name of the input file.

parameters: the parameters of the Sections object

Various parameters pertaining to the Sections object contained in a dictionary.

Class methods

from_file: make a Sections object from a GPKG or SHP file.

Takes as input a GPKG or SHP file that contains the sections as `shapely.LineStrings` and reformats it for subsequent processing by: renaming and reordering essential columns; if necessary, reprojecting it to a projected CRS; assigning each section a unique ID.

Sections can be made from CSV or XLSX files containing series of points by first making a `DataPoints` object and then using `Sections.from_datapoints` to make a Sections object.

Parameters:

`filepath` : str

The path to the file containing the sections. Ensure that filepath includes the filename and the extension.

`crs_working` : str | int | `pyproj.CRS`, optional, default None

The CRS to be used for the subsequent processing. Must be a projected CRS that, preferably, preserves distance and uses metres. The CRS must be either: a `pyproj.CRS`; a string in a format accepted by `pyproj.CRS.from_user_input` (e.g., 'EPSG:4326'); or an integer in a format accepted by `pyproj.CRS.from_user_input` (e.g., 4326).

`datetime_col` : str, optional, default None

The name of the column containing the datetime of each section.

`tz_input` : str | timezone | pytz.BaseTzInfo, optional, default None

If `datetime_col` is specified, the timezone of the datetimes contained within the column. The timezone must be either: a `datetime.timezone`; a string of a UTC code (e.g., 'UTC+02:00', 'UTC-09:30'); or a string of a timezone name accepted by `pytz` (e.g., 'Europe/Vilnius' or 'Pacific/Marquesas').

`tz_working` : str | timezone | pytz.BaseTzInfo, optional, default None

The timezone to be used for the subsequent processing. The timezone must be either: a `datetime.timezone`; a string of a UTC code (e.g., 'UTC+02:00', 'UTC-09:30'); or a string of a timezone name accepted by `pytz` (e.g., 'Europe/Vilnius' or 'Pacific/Marquesas').

Returns:

Sections

Returns a Sections object with three attributes: name, parameters, and sections.

from_datapoints: make a Sections object from a DataPoints object.

Takes as input a DataPoints object that contains sections as continuous series of Points and reformats it for subsequent processing by: converting each series of Points to a LineString; renaming and reordering essential columns. The CRS and timezone will be that of the DataPoints object.

Note that, when making the DataPoints object, it is necessary to specify `section_id_col`.

Note that `Sections.from_datapoints` should only be used with continuous datapoints and not with sporadic datapoints (see under DataPoints for details on continuous and sporadic datapoints).

Parameters:

`datapoint` : DataPoints

The DataPoints object that contains sections as series of points.

`cols` : dict | None, optional, default None

The aggregation dictionary composed of the names of any columns to keep and corresponding functions specifying what to do with those columns. For example, if each section has a pre-set period in a column called 'season', `cols` could be specified as {'season': 'first'} to keep the first value of season for each section.

`sortby` : str | list, optional, default None

When converting each series of Points to a LineString, the Points are joined one to the next (like a dot-to-dot). If the Points are not in the right order, the resulting LineString will be incorrect. If `sortby` is not specified, the Points will be joined in the order that they are in. To change this order, specify `sortby` as the name of a column or columns (e.g., 'datetime') to sort the datapoints by before the Points are converted to LineStrings.

Returns:

Sections

Returns a Sections object with three attributes: name, parameters, and sections.

Methods

plot: plot the sections

Makes a basic matplotlib plot of the sections in greyscale.

Parameters:

datapoints : DataPoints, optional, default None

Optionally, a DataPoints object with datapoints to be plotted with the sections.

save: save the sections

Saves the sections GeoDataFrame as a GPKG, a CSV, or both. The name of the saved file(s) will be the name of the Sections object.

Parameters:

folder : str

The path to the output folder where the output files will be saved

filetype : {'gpkg', 'csv', 'both'}, optional, default 'gpkg'

The	type	of	file	that	the	sections	will	be	saved	as.
	gpkg:								GeoPackage	
	csv:								CSV	
	both:	GeoPackage	and	CSV						

Stage 2 – delimiting

Stage 2 involves delimiting one or more of the following: periods, cells, segments, presences, absence lines, and absences. The approach(es) used and the data input will determine which of these are necessary to delimit. The result of this stage is one or more objects that are referred to collectively as ‘delimiters’, i.e., objects that delimit samples (e.g., grid cells set the spatial limits of samples). There is no limit to the number of delimiters that can be made, thus enabling the user to implement different procedures and settings to determine the best option for data processing (e.g., the user could make segments that are 10km, 5km, and 2.5km long).

Paths

There are three sets of paths corresponding to the three approaches: grid, segment, and point.

Grid approach: A Cells object can be made from a DataPoints or a Sections object by using the Cells.delimit class method (Fig 2a). Similarly, a Periods object can be made from a DataPoints or a Sections object by using the Periods.delimit class method (Fig 2a).

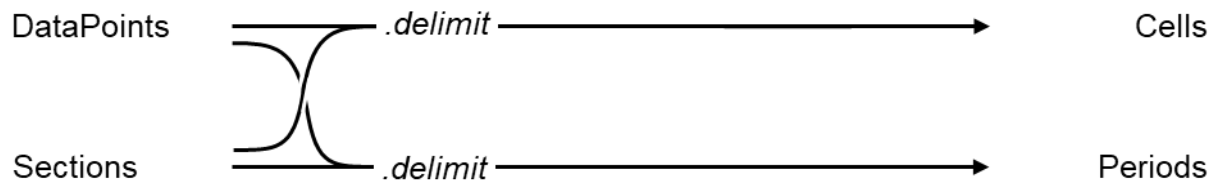


Fig 2a. A graphical representation of Stage 2 – grid approach.

Segment approach: A Segments object can be made from a Sections object by using the Segments.delimit class method (Fig 2b).

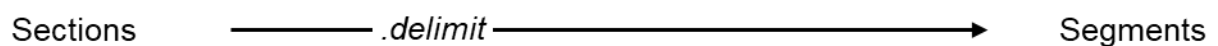


Fig 2b. A graphical representation of Stage 2 – segment approach.

Point approach: A Presences object can be made from a DataPoints object by using the Presences.delimit class method and, additionally, can be thinned with the Presences.thin method (Fig 2c). An AbsenceLines object can be made from a Presences object and a Sections object by using the AbsenceLines.delimit class method (Fig 2c). An Absences object can then be made from an AbsenceLines object and, additionally, can be thinned with the Absences.thin method (Fig 2c).

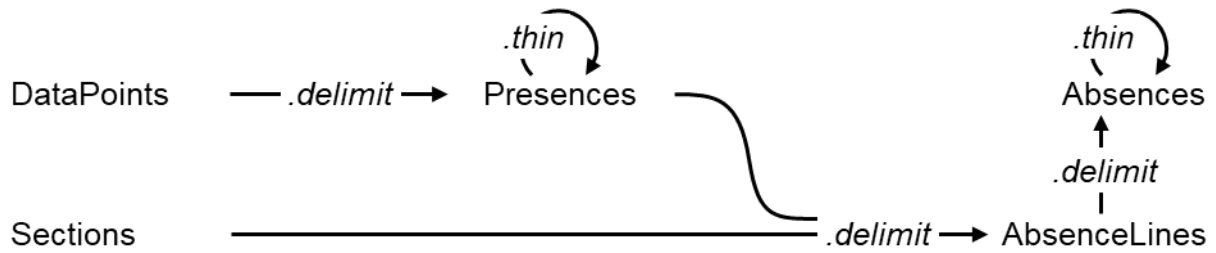


Fig 2c. A graphical representation of Stage 2 – point approach.

Periods

Attributes

periods: a dataframe containing the periods

A pandas.DataFrame with the following key columns:

period_id: a unique identifier for each period consisting of 'p', the begin date, a dash, the number of units, and the unit (e.g., 'p2025-01-22-8d' is an 8 day period beginning the 22nd Jan 2025).

datetime_beg: the datetime of the beginning of each period as a pd.Timestamp

datetime_mid: the datetime of the midpoint of each period as a pd.Timestamp

datetime_end: the datetime of the end of each period as a pd.Timestamp

name: the name of the Periods object

The name of the Periods object as a string consisting of 'periods-', the number of units, and the units (e.g., 'periods-8d', meaning periods of 8 days).

parameters: the parameters of the Periods object

Various parameters pertaining to the Periods object contained in a dictionary.

Class methods

delimit: delimit temporal periods of a set number of units

From a given extent, number of units, and type of units, delimit temporal periods of regular length, e.g., 8 days, 2 months, or 1 year.

Parameters:

extent : Sections | DataPoints | pandas.DataFrame | tuple[list, str]

An object detailing the temporal extent over which the periods will be limited. Must be one of:

a Sections object whose sections GeoDataFrame has a 'datetime' column

a DataPoints object whose datapoints GeoDataFrame has a 'datetime' column

a pandas.DataFrame that has a 'datetime' column

a tuple containing two elements: a list of two datetimes and a timezone as a string (or None if no timezone is to be used)

num : int | float

The number of temporal units.

unit : str

The temporal units assigned with one of the following strings:

'day': days ('d' also accepted)

'month': months ('m' also accepted)

'year': years ('y' also accepted)

Returns:

Periods

Returns a Periods object with three attributes: name, parameters, and periods.

Methods

save: save the periods

Saves the periods DataFrame as a CSV. The name of the saved file will be the name of the Periods object.

Parameters:

folder : str

The path to the output folder where the output files will be saved

tz_output : str | timezone | pytz.BaseTzInfo, optional, default None

The timezone to convert the periods to before saving (only converts the periods that are saved and not the Periods object). The timezone must be either: a datetime.timezone; a string of a UTC code (e.g., 'UTC+02:00', 'UTC-09:30'); or a string of a timezone name accepted by pytz (e.g., 'Europe/Vilnius' or 'Pacific/Marquesas').

Cells

Attributes

cells: a dataframe containing the cells

A geopandas.GeoDataFrame with the following key columns:

cell_id: a unique identifier for each cell consisting of 'c', a unique number, a dash, 'r/' 'h' for rectangular/hexagonal, the side length, and the units (e.g., 'c123-r5000m' is cell number 123 that is rectangular with 5000 metre sides).

polygon: the geometry of each cell as a shapely.Polygon

centroid: the centroid of each cell as a shapely.Point

name: the name of the Cells object

The name of the Cells object as a string consisting of 'cells-', 'r' / 'h' for rectangular / hexagonal and the side length (e.g., 'cells-r5000m', meaning cells that are rectangular with 5000 metre sides).

parameters: the parameters of the Cells object

Various parameters pertaining to the Cells object contained in a dictionary.

Class methods

delimit: delimit grid cells

From a given extent, variation, and side length, delimit rectangular or hexagonal grid cells of a regular size.

Parameters:

extent : Sections | DataPoints | geopandas.GeoDataFrame | tuple[list, str]

An object detailing the spatial extent over which the periods will be limited. Must be one of:

a Sections object

a DataPoints object

a geopandas.GeoDataFrame

a tuple containing two elements: a list containing the x min, y min, x max, and y max and a CRS

var : {'rectangular', 'hexagonal'}

The variation used to generate the cells. Must be one of the following:

'rectangular': make rectangular (square) cells ('r' also accepted)

'hexagonal': make hexagonal cells ('h' also accepted)

side : int | float

The side length of the rectangles/hexagons in the units of the CRS.

buffer : int | float, optional, default 0

The width of a buffer to be created around the extent to enlarge it and ensure that all the surveyed area is covered by the cells.

Returns:

Cells

Returns a Cells object with three attributes: name, parameters, and cells.

Methods

plot: plot the cells

Makes a basic matplotlib plot of the cells.

Parameters:

`datapoints` : DataPoints, optional, default None

Optionally, a DataPoints object with datapoints to be plotted with the cells.

`sections` : Sections, optional, default None

Optionally, a Sections object with sections to be plotted with the cells.

save: save the cells

Saves the cells GeoDataFrame as two GPKGs: one of the polygons and one of the centroids. The names of the saved files will be the name of the Cells object plus '-polygons' and '-centroids', respectively.

Parameters:

`folder` : str

The path to the output folder where the output files will be saved

`crs_output` : str | int | pyproj.CRS, optional, default None

The CRS to reproject the cells to before saving (only reprojects the cells that are saved and not the Cells object). The CRS must be either: a pyproj.CRS; a string in a format accepted by pyproj.CRS.from_user_input (e.g., 'EPSG:4326'); or an integer in a format accepted by pyproj.CRS.from_user_input (e.g., 4326).

Segments

Attributes

segments: a dataframe containing the segments

A geopandas.GeoDataFrame with the following key columns:
`segment_id`: a unique identifier for each segments

`segment_id`: the ID of each segment consisting of 's', a unique number, a dash, 's'/'j'/'r' for simple/joining/redistribution variation, the target length, and the units (e.g., 's123-r1000m' is segment 123 made with the redistribution method and a target length of 1000 metres).

`line`: the geometry of the segment as a shapely.LineString

`midpoint`: the midpoint of the segment as a shapely.Point

`section_id`: the ID of the section from which the segment was cut

`dfbsec_beg`: the distance along the section where the segment begins

`dfbsec_end`: the distance along the section where the segment ends

name: the name of the Segments object

The name of the Segments object as a string consisting of 'segments-', 's' / 'j' / 'r' for simple / joining / redistribution variation, the target length, and the units (e.g., 'segments-r1000m', meaning segments made with the redistribution method and a target length of 1000 metres).

parameters: the parameters of the Segments object

Various parameters pertaining to the Segments object contained in a dictionary.

Class methods

delimit: delimit segments

With a given variation and target length, cut sections into segments.

Segments can be made with any one of three variations: the simple, joining, and redistribution variations. For all three variations, a target length is set. The variations differ in how they deal with the remainder – the length inevitably left over after dividing a section by the target length. Additionally, for the simple and joining variations, the location of the remainder / joined segment can be randomised (rather than always being at the end).

Parameters:

sections : Sections

The Sections object containing the sections from which the segments will be cut.

var : {'simple', 'joining', 'redistribution'}

The variation to use to make the segments. Must be one of the following:

'simple': the remainder is left as an independent segment ('s' also accepted)

'joining': the remainder, if under half the target length, is joined to another segment, otherwise it is left as an independent segment ('j' also accepted)

'redistribution': the remainder is redistributed among the other segments ('r' also accepted)

target : int | float

The target length of the segments in the units of the CRS.

rand : bool, optional, default False

If using the simple or joining variations, whether to randomise the location of the remainder / joined segment or not.

Returns:

Segments

Returns a Segments object with three attributes: name, parameters, and segments.

Methods

plot: plot the segments

Makes a basic matplotlib plot of the segments.

Parameters:

datapoints : DataPoints, optional, default None

Optionally, a DataPoints object with datapoints to be plotted with the segments.

sections : Sections, optional, default None

Optionally, a Sections object with sections to be plotted with the segments.

save: save the segments

Saves the segments GeoDataFrame as two GPKGs: one of the lines and one of the midpoints. The names of the saved files will be the name of the Segments object plus '-lines' and '-midpoints', respectively.

Parameters:

folder : str

The path to the output folder where the output files will be saved

crs_output : str | int | pyproj.CRS, optional, default None

The CRS to reproject the segments to before saving (only reprojects the segments that are saved and not the Segments object). The CRS must be either: a pyproj.CRS; a string in a format accepted by pyproj.CRS.from_user_input (e.g., 'EPSG:4326'); or an integer in a format accepted by pyproj.CRS.from_user_input (e.g., 4326).

Presences

Attributes

Unlike the other classes, in Presences objects, the presences are not contained within an attribute called presences (as may be expected), but rather they are contained within three separate attributes: full, kept, and removed.

full: a dataframe containing all the presences

A geopandas.GeoDataFrame containing all the presences with the following key columns:

point_id: a unique identifier for each presence

point: the presence as a shapely.Point

date: the date of the presence as a pd.Timestamp

kept: a dataframe of the presences kept after spatiotemporal thinning

A geopandas.GeoDataFrame with the same columns as full but only those presences kept after spatiotemporal thinning.

removed: a dataframe of the presences removed after spatiotemporal thinning

A geopandas.GeoDataFrame with the same columns as full but only those presences removed after spatiotemporal thinning (i.e., the complement to kept).

name: the name of the Presences object

The name of the Presences object as a string consisting of 'presences-' and the name of the DataPoints object from which the Presences object is derived.

parameters: the parameters of the Presences object

Various parameters pertaining to the Presences object contained in a dictionary.

Class methods

delimit: delimit presences

From a DataPoints object, make a Presences object. There are two options for the datapoints: all rows are presences, in which case there is no need to specify `presence_col`, or only some rows are presences, in which case `presence_col` must be specified.

Parameters:

`datapoints` : GeoDataFrame

The DataPoints object that contains the presences.

`presence_col` : str, optional, default None

If necessary, the name of the column containing values that determine which points are presences. This column must contain only integers or floats. Only needs to be specified if the DataPoints object includes points that are not presences.

Returns:

Presences

Returns a Presences object with three attributes: `name`, `parameters` and `full`.

Methods

thin: spatiotemporally thin the presences

Spatiotemporally thin the presences so that no two presences are within some spatial threshold and/or within some temporal threshold of each other. Uses the `spatiotemporal_thin` function from the `Thinst` package.

If only a spatial threshold is specified, spatial thinning will be conducted. If only a temporal threshold is specified, temporal thinning will be conducted. If both a spatial and a temporal threshold are specified, spatiotemporal thinning will be conducted.

Adds to the Presences object two attributes – `Presences.kept` and `Presences.removed` – that are both `geopandas.GeoDataFrame` containing the points that were kept and those that were removed after spatiotemporal thinning, respectively.

Parameters:

`sp_threshold` : int | float, optional, default None

The spatial threshold to use for spatial and spatiotemporal thinning in the units of the CRS.

`tm_threshold` : int | float, optional, default None

The temporal threshold to use for temporal and spatiotemporal thinning in the units set with `tm_unit`.

`tm_unit` : str, optional, default 'day'

The temporal units to use for temporal and spatiotemporal thinning. One of the following:

'year': year (all datetimes from the same year will be given the same value)

'month': month (all datetimes from the same month and year will be given the same value)

'day': day (all datetimes with the same date will be given the same value)

'hour': hour (all datetimes in the same hour on the same date will be given the same value)

'moy': month of the year (i.e., January is 1, December is 12 regardless of the year)

'doy': day of the year (i.e., January 1st is 1, December 31st is 365 regardless of the year)

`target` : int, optional, default None

The target number of presences. If, after thinning, the number of presences is greater than the target, the kept presences will be randomly sampled to reduce their number to the target.

plot: plot the presences

Makes a basic matplotlib plot of the presences.

Parameters:

`sp_threshold` : int | float, optional, default None

The spatial threshold used for spatial and spatiotemporal thinning in the units of the CRS. If specified, the plot will add a circle around each point to represent the spatial threshold.

`which` : { 'full', 'kept', 'removed', 'thinned' }, optional, default 'full'

A keyword to indicate which set of points to plot. Must be one of the following:

'full': all the presences (in blue)

'kept': the presences kept after thinning (in blue)

'removed': the presences removed after thinning (in yellow)

'thinned': the presences kept after thinning (in blue) and those removed after thinning (in yellow)

save: save the presences

Saves the full, kept, and removed presences as GPKG files. The name of the saved files will be the name of the Presences object plus '-full', '-kept', and '-removed', respectively. Note that the kept and removed presences will only be saved if they have been made with `Presences.thin`.

Parameters:

`folder` : str

The path to the output folder where the output files will be saved

`crs_output` : str | int | pyproj.CRS, optional, default None

The CRS to reproject the presences to before saving (only reprojects the presences that are saved and not the Presences object). The CRS must be either: a pyproj.CRS; a string in a format accepted by pyproj.CRS.from_user_input (e.g., 'EPSG:4326'); or an integer in a format accepted by pyproj.CRS.from_user_input (e.g., 4326).

AbsenceLines

Attributes

absencelines: a dataframe containing the absence lines

A `geopandas.GeoDataFrame` with the following key columns:
`section_id`: a unique identifier for each section from which each absence line is made
`date`: the date of each absence line
`absencelines`: the geometry of each absence line as a `shapely.LineString`

name: the name of the AbsenceLines object

The name of the AbsenceLines object as a string consisting of 'absencelines-', the spatial threshold, its units, and, if used, the temporal threshold and its units.

parameters: the parameters of the AbsenceLines object

Various parameters pertaining to the AbsenceLines object contained in a dictionary.

Class methods

delimit: delimit absence lines

From the sections and the presences, use a spatial and, optionally, temporal threshold to make absence lines.

Absence lines are survey lines from which absences may be generated. More specifically, the absence lines represent the portions of survey track that are sufficiently far (in space and time) from the presences that a point generated along them can be considered an absence. Spatial and temporal thresholds determine how far is 'sufficiently far'.

Parameters:

`sections` : Sections

The Sections object containing the sections from which the absence lines will be made.

`presences` : Presences

The Presences object containing the presences to be used to make the absence lines.

`sp_threshold` : int | float, optional, default None

The spatial threshold to use for making the absence lines in the units of the CRS.

`tm_threshold` : int | float, optional, default None

The temporal threshold to use for making the absence lines in the units set with `tm_unit`.

`tm_unit` : str, optional, default 'day'

The temporal units to use for making the absence lines. One of the following:

'year': year (all datetimes from the same year will be given the same value)

'month': month (all datetimes from the same month and year will be given the same value)

'day': day (all datetimes with the same date will be given the same value)

'hour': hour (all datetimes in the same hour on the same date will be given the same value)

'moy': month of the year (i.e., January is 1, December is 12 regardless of the year)

'doy': day of the year (i.e., January 1st is 1, December 31st is 365 regardless of the year)

Returns:

AbsenceLines

Returns an AbsenceLines object with three attributes: name, parameters, and absencelines.

Methods

plot: plot the absence lines

Makes a basic matplotlib plot of the absence lines.

Parameters:

`sections` : Sections, optional, default None

Optionally, a Sections object with sections to be plotted with the absence lines.

`presences` : Presences, optional, default None

Optionally, a Presences object with presences to be plotted with the absence lines.

save: save the absence lines

Saves the absence lines GeoDataFrame as a GPKG. The name of the saved file will be the name of the AbsenceLines object plus '-absencelines'.

Parameters:

`folder` : str

The path to the output folder where the output files will be saved

`crs_output` : str | int | pyproj.CRS, optional, default None

The CRS to reproject the absence lines to before saving (only reprojects the absence lines that are saved and not the AbsenceLines object). The CRS must be either: a pyproj.CRS; a string in a format accepted by pyproj.CRS.from_user_input (e.g., 'EPSG:4326'); or an integer in a format accepted by pyproj.CRS.from_user_input (e.g., 4326).

Absences

Attributes

Unlike the other classes, in Absences objects, the absences are not contained within an attribute called absences (as may be expected), but rather they are contained within three separate attributes: full, kept, and removed.

full: a dataframe containing all the absences

A geopandas.GeoDataFrame containing all the absences with the following key columns:

point_id: a unique identifier for each absence

point: the absence as a shapely.Point

date: the date of the absence as a pd.Timestamp

Additionally, if the 'from-the-line' variation is used:

point_al: a point corresponding to each point in the 'point' column but along the survey line

kept: a dataframe of the absences kept after spatiotemporal thinning

A geopandas.GeoDataFrame with the same columns as full but only those absences kept after spatiotemporal thinning.

removed: a dataframe of the absences removed after spatiotemporal thinning

A geopandas.GeoDataFrame with the same columns as full but only those absences removed after spatiotemporal thinning (i.e., the complement to kept).

name: the name of the Absences object

The name of the Absences object as a string consisting of 'absences-', 'a' / 'f' for along-the-line / from-the-line variation, and the name of the AbsenceLines object.

parameters: the parameters of the Absences object

Various parameters pertaining to the Absences object contained in a dictionary.

Class methods

delimit: delimit the absences

Absences can be generated by one of two variations: the 'along-the-line' variation or the 'from-the-line' variation. In the along-the-line variation, the absences are generated by randomly placing a point along the absence lines. In the from-the-line variation, the absences are generated by, firstly, randomly placing a point along the absence lines and then, secondly, placing another point a certain distance from the first point perpendicular to the line. The distance from the line is selected from a list of candidate distances that can be generated in any way, including from a predefined distribution (e.g., a detection function) by using the function generate_dfls.

Parameters:

absencelines : AbsenceLines

The AbsenceLines object containing the absence lines used to generate the absences.

var : {'along', 'from'}

The variation to use to generate the absences. Must be one of the following:

'along': along-the-line - the absences are generated by randomly placing a point along the surveyed lines ('a' also accepted)

'from': from-the-line - the absences are generated by, firstly, randomly placing a point along the line and then, secondly, placing a point a certain distance from the first point perpendicular to the line ('f' also accepted)

target : int | float

The target number of absences to be generated. Note that, during thinning, some absences may be removed so, to account for this, the target should be set higher than the number desired.

dfls : list[int | float], optional, default None

If using the from-the-line variation, a list of candidate distances from the line to use when generating absences. For each absence, one of these distances will be chosen at random and used to place the absence at that distance from the survey line. These distances can be generated in any way, including from a predefined distribution (e.g., a detection function) with the function `generate_dfls`.

Returns:

Absences

Returns an Absences object with three attributes: name, parameters and full.

Methods

thin: spatiotemporally thin the absences

Spatiotemporally thin the absences so that no two absences are within some spatial threshold and/or within some temporal threshold of each other. Uses the `spatiotemporal_thin` function from the `Thinst` package.

If only a spatial threshold is specified, spatial thinning will be conducted. If only a temporal threshold is specified, temporal thinning will be conducted. If both a spatial and a temporal threshold are specified, spatiotemporal thinning will be conducted.

Adds to the Absences object two attributes – `Absences.kept` and `Absences.removed` – that are both `geopandas.GeoDataFrame` containing the points that were kept and those that were removed after spatiotemporal thinning, respectively.

Parameters:

sp_threshold : int | float, optional, default None

The spatial threshold to use for spatial and spatiotemporal thinning in the units of the CRS.

`tm_threshold` : int | float, optional, default None

The temporal threshold to use for temporal and spatiotemporal thinning in the units set with `tm_unit`.

`tm_unit` : str, optional, default 'day'

The temporal units to use for temporal and spatiotemporal thinning. One of the following:

'year': year (all datetimes from the same year will be given the same value)

'month': month (all datetimes from the same month and year will be given the same value)

'day': day (all datetimes with the same date will be given the same value)

'hour': hour (all datetimes in the same hour on the same date will be given the same value)

'moy': month of the year (i.e., January is 1, December is 12 regardless of the year)

'doy': day of the year (i.e., January 1st is 1, December 31st is 365 regardless of the year)

`target` : int, optional, default None

The target number of absences. If, after thinning, the number of absences is greater than the target, the kept absences will be randomly sampled to reduce their number to the target.

plot: plot the absences

Makes a basic matplotlib plot of the absences.

Parameters:

`sp_threshold` : int | float, optional, default None

The spatial threshold used for spatial and spatiotemporal thinning in the units of the CRS. If specified, the plot will add a circle around each point to represent the spatial threshold.

`which` : { 'full', 'kept', 'removed', 'thinned'}, optional, default 'full'

A keyword to indicate which set of points to plot. Must be one of the following:

'full': all the absences (in red)

'kept': the absences kept after thinning (in red)

'removed': the absences removed after thinning (in yellow)

'thinned': the absences kept after thinning (in red) and those removed after thinning (in yellow)

`absencelines` : AbsenceLines, optional, default None

Optionally, an AbsenceLines object with absence lines to be plotted with the absences.

save: save the absences

Saves the full, kept, and removed absences as GPKG files. The name of the saved files will be the name of the Absences object plus '-full', '-kept', and '-removed', respectively. Note that the kept and removed absences will only be saved if they have been made with Absences.thin.

Parameters:

folder : str

The path to the output folder where the output files will be saved

crs_output : str | int | pyproj.CRS, optional, default None

The CRS to reproject the absences to before saving (only reprojects the absences that are saved and not the Absences object). The CRS must be either: a pyproj.CRS; a string in a format accepted by pyproj.CRS.from_user_input (e.g., 'EPSG:4326'); or an integer in a format accepted by pyproj.CRS.from_user_input (e.g., 4326).

Stage 3 – sampling

The delimiters made in Stage 2 set the limits of the samples, however they do not contain any data. In this sense, they can be considered as empty containers waiting to be filled. Stage 3 concerns allocating data contained in one or more DataPoints and/or Sections objects to the delimiters (i.e., filling containers with their corresponding data).

Paths

Grid approach: A Samples object can be made from a DataPoints object, a Cells object, and, optionally, a Periods object by using the Samples.grid class method. Additionally, a Samples object with measures of survey effort can be made from a Sections object, a Cells object, and, optionally, a Periods object by using the Samples.grid_se class method. Finally, a Samples object can be made from multiple other Samples objects by using the Samples.merge class method (Fig 3a).

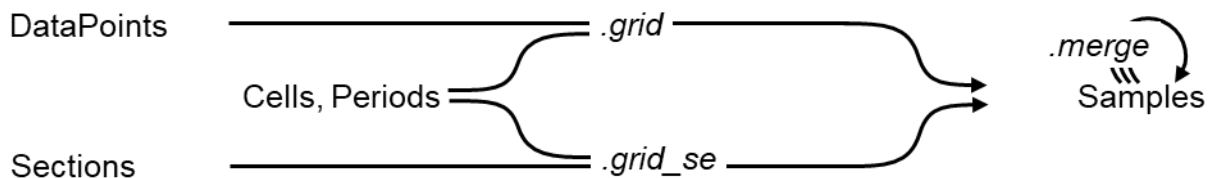
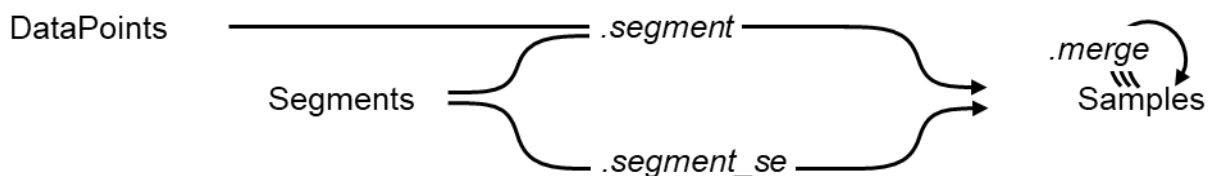


Fig 3a. A graphical representation of Stage 3 – grid approach.

Segment approach: A Samples object can be made from a DataPoints object and a Segments object by using the Samples.segment class method. Additionally, a Samples object with measures of survey effort can be made from a Segments object by using the Samples.segment_se class method. Finally, a Samples object can be made from multiple other Samples objects by using the Samples.merge class



method (Fig 3b).

Fig 3b. A graphical representation of Stage 3 – segment approach.

Point approach: A Samples object can be made from a DataPoints object, a Presences object, an Absences object, and, optionally, a Sections object by using the Samples.point class method (Fig 3c).

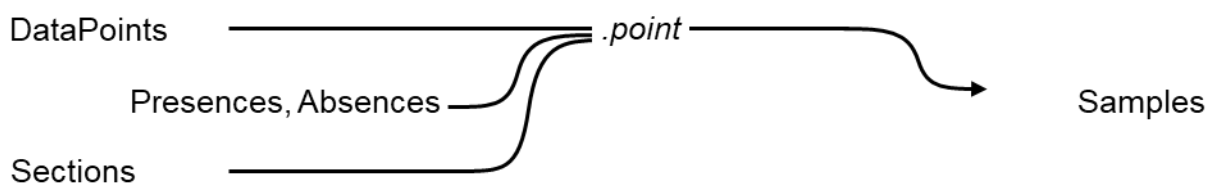


Fig 3c. A graphical representation of Stage 3 – point approach.

Samples

Attributes

samples: a dataframe containing the samples

A `geopandas.GeoDataFrame` with the key columns of the delimiters (i.e., Periods, Cells, Segments, Presences, or Absences) used to generate the samples as well as any number of data columns.

name: the name of the Samples object

The name of the Samples object as a string consisting of 'samples-' and an amalgamation of the names of the delimiters (i.e., Periods, Cells, Segments, Presences, or Absences) used to generate the samples.

parameters: the parameters of the Samples object

Various parameters pertaining to the Samples object contained in a dictionary.

assigned: the datapoints or sections with their allocated delimiter

Depending on the approach used, a `geopandas.GeoDataFrame` of the datapoints or sections with an additional column (or columns) indicating the Periods, Cells, or Segments that each datapoint or section has been allocated to. Mainly for the purposes of verifying the allocation process.

Class methods

grid: resample datapoints using the grid approach

Determines which cell and period each datapoint lies within and then groups together datapoints with that lie within the same cell and period. As multiple datapoints may lie within the same cell and period, it is necessary to treat them in some way (e.g., average them, sum them). The parameter `cols` dictates how each column is to be treated.

Parameters:

`datapoints` : `DataPoints`

The `DataPoints` object.

`cells` : `Cells`

The `Cells` object.

`periods` : `Periods` | `str` | `None`

One of the following:

a `Periods` object

a string indicating the name of the column in `datapoints` containing pre-set periods

`None`

cols : dict

A dictionary indicating how to treat each of the data columns. The dictionary should have the format:

```
{'COLUMN': FUNCTION,
 'COLUMN': FUNCTION}
```

...where COLUMN is the name of a given column as a string (e.g., 'bss') and FUNCTION is a function to apply to the values in that column when they are grouped together (e.g., 'mean').

Functions include those available for pandas.groupby plus some custom functions provided here. For example:

'mean' - get the mean

'min' - get the minimum

'max' - get the maximum

'sum' - sum the values

'count' - count how many have a value (0s counted, NAs ignored)

count_nz - count how many have a value (0s not counted, NAs ignored)

c_pa - convert counts to presence-absence (0s not counted, NAs ignored)

list - list the values

Note that some functions have quotation marks, while others do not. Note that some functions differ in how they treat NA values (missing values) and 0s. It is not necessary to specify all columns, but any columns not specified will be removed. Each column can only be specified once.

full : bool, optional, default False

If False, only those cell-period combinations that have at least one datapoint will be included in samples. If True, all possible cell-period combinations will be included in samples (note that this may result in a large number of samples that have no data).

Returns:

Samples

Returns a Samples object with four attributes: name, parameters, samples, and assigned.

Examples:

For a set of datapoints with a column of counts of individuals, 'individuals', and a column of values for Beaufort sea state (BSS), 'bss', the parameter cols could be set to the following in order to sum the individuals observed per sample and get the mean BSS per sample:

```
cols={'individuals': 'sum', 'bss': 'mean'}
```

segment: resample datapoints using the segment approach

Determines which segment each datapoint corresponds to and then groups together datapoints that correspond to the same segment. As multiple datapoints may correspond to the same segment, it is necessary to treat them in some way (e.g., average them, sum them). The parameter cols dictates how each column is to be treated.

Parameters:

datapoints : DataPoints

The DataPoints object.

segments : Segment

cols : dict

A dictionary indicating how to treat each of the data columns. The dictionary should have the format:

```
{'COLUMN': FUNCTION,  
'COLUMN': FUNCTION}
```

...where COLUMN is the name of a given column as a string (e.g., 'bss') and FUNCTION is a function to apply to the values in that column when they are grouped together (e.g., 'mean').

Functions include those available for pandas.groupby plus some custom functions provided here. For example:

'mean' - get the mean

'min' - get the minimum

'max' - get the maximum

'sum' - sum the values

'count' - count how many have a value (0s counted, NAs ignored)

count_nz - count how many have a value (0s not counted, NAs ignored)

c_pa - convert counts to presence-absence (0s not counted, NAs ignored)

list - list the values

Note that some functions have quotation marks, while others do not. Note that some functions differ in how they treat NA values (missing values) and 0s. It is not necessary to specify all columns, but any columns not specified will be removed. Each column can only be specified once.

how : { 'line', 'midpoint', 'dfb'}

An option specifying how to determine which segment each datapoint corresponds to. Must be one of the following:

line: each datapoint is matched to the nearest segment that has the same date

midpoint: each datapoint is matched to the segment with the nearest midpoint that has the same date

dfb: each datapoint is matched to its segment based on the distance it is located from the start of the sections lines (only applicable for matching segments that were made from sections that were made from datapoints with Sections.from_datapoints and those datapoints)

Returns:

Samples

Returns a Samples object with four attributes: name, parameters, samples, and assigned.

Examples:

For a set of datapoints that has a column of counts of individuals, 'individuals', and a column of values for Beaufort sea state (BSS), 'bss', the parameter cols could be set to the following in order to sum the individuals observed per sample and get the mean BSS per sample:

```
cols={'individuals': 'sum', 'bss': 'mean'}
```

point: resample datapoints using the point approach

For each presence, gets data from its corresponding datapoint (i.e., the datapoint from which the presence was derived).

Optionally, for each absence, gets the datapoint prior to it and assigns the absence that datapoint's data. The ID of the prior datapoint is also added to the datapoint_id column. Note that this is only applicable if absence lines were made from sections that were, in turn, made from datapoints with Sections.from_datapoints and those datapoints.

Concatenates the presences and absences and assigns them presence-absence values of 1 and 0, respectively.

Parameters:

datapoints : DataPoints

The DataPoints object.

presences : Presences

The Presences object.

absences : Absences

The Absences object.

cols : list

A list indicating which data columns to add to the Presences and, if applicable, the Absences.

sections : Sections, optional, default None

If adding data to the absences, the Sections object from which the AbsenceLines were derived (only applicable for sections that were made from datapoints with Sections.from_datapoints and those datapoints).

Returns:

Samples

Returns a Samples object with three attributes: name, parameters, and samples.

grid_se: measure survey effort using the grid approach

Measures the amount of section that lies within each cell-period combination to get a measure of survey effort. Survey effort per cell-period can be measured in two ways:

length - length of the survey track in each cell-period

area - area of the buffered survey track in each cell-period

Moreover, each of these ways can be measured using Euclidean or geodesic measurements, as determined by the parameter `euc_geo`. Geodesic measurements will be more precise but take longer to run. Multiple measures of survey effort can be calculated simultaneously. If the parameter `length` is `True`, `length` will be measured. If the parameter `esw` is specified, `area` will be measured.

Parameters:

`sections` : Sections

The Sections object.

`cells` : Cells

The Cells object.

`periods` : Periods | str | None

One of the following:

a Periods object

a string indicating the name of the column in datapoints containing pre-set periods

None

`length` : bool, optional, default `True`

If `True`, the length of survey track in each cell-period combination will be measured.

`esw` : int | float, optional, default `None`

Optionally, the one-sided effective stripwidth (ESW). If a value is given, the area of survey track in each cell-period combination will be measured. Note that ESW is one-sided.

`euc_geo` : {'euclidean', 'geodesic', 'both'}, optional, default 'euclidean'

The type of measurement. Must be one of the following: 'euclidean', 'geodesic', or 'both'.

`full` : bool, optional, default `False`

If `False`, only those cell-period combinations that have at least some survey effort will be included in samples. If `True`, all possible cell-period combinations will be included in samples (note that this may result in a large number of samples that have no data).

Returns

Samples

Returns a Samples object with four attributes: name, parameters, samples, and assigned. Within the samples attribute, the survey effort measures will be contained in the following columns (if applicable):

`se_length`: survey effort measured as length with Euclidean distances

`se_area`: survey effort measured as area with Euclidean distances

`se_length_geo`: survey effort measured as length with geodesic distances

`se_area_geo`: survey effort measured as area with geodesic distances

`segment_se`: measure survey effort using the segment approach

Measures the amount of survey effort per segment. Survey effort per segment can be measured in three ways:

length - length of the segment

area - length of the segment multiplied by a one-sided ESW multiplied by 2

effective area - length of the segment multiplied by a one-sided area under a detection function multiplied by 2

Moreover, each of these ways can be measured using Euclidean or geodesic measurements, as determined by the parameter `euc_geo`. Geodesic measurements will be more precise but take longer to run. Multiple measures of survey effort can be calculated simultaneously. If the parameter `length` is True, length will be measured. If the parameter `esw` is specified, area will be measured.

Parameters:

`segments` : Segments

The Segments object.

`length` : bool, optional, default True

If True, the length of each segment will be measured.

`esw` : int | float, optional, default None

Optionally, the one-sided effective stripwidth (ESW). If a value is given, the area of each segment will be measured. Note that ESW is one-sided.

`audf` : int | float, optional, default None

Optionally, the one-sided area under detection function (AUDF). If a value is given, the effective area of each segment will be measured. Note that AUDF is one-sided.

`euc_geo` : {'euclidean', 'geodesic', 'both'}, optional, default 'euclidean'

The type of measurement. Must be one of the following: 'euclidean', 'geodesic', or 'both'.

Returns

Samples

Returns a Samples object with three attributes: name, parameters, and samples. Within the samples attribute, the survey effort measures will be contained in the following columns (if applicable):

`se_length`: survey effort measured as length with Euclidean distances

`se_area`: survey effort measured as area with Euclidean distances

`se_effective`: survey effort measured as effective area with Euclidean distances

`se_length_geo`: survey effort measured as length with geodesic distances

`se_area_geo`: survey effort measured as area with geodesic distances

`se_effective_geo`: survey effort measured as effective area with geodesic distances

merge: merge multiple Samples objects together

Merge multiple Samples objects into a single new Samples object. Each Samples object should be entered as a parameter with a unique name of the user's choosing (note that this name will be used to name the merged Samples object). Only Samples objects made with the grid or segment approach can be merged (i.e., Samples objects must be generated by one or more of `Samples.grid`, `Samples.segment`, `Samples.grid_se`, or `Samples.segment_se`, but not `Samples.point`).

Parameters:

****kwargs :**

Any number of Samples objects each entered as a parameter with a unique name of the user's choosing.

Returns:

Samples

Returns a Samples object with three attributes: name, parameters, and samples.

Methods

save: save the samples

Saves the samples GeoDataFrame as a GPKG, a CSV, or both. The name of the saved file(s) will be the name of the Samples object. Additionally, the parameters will be output as a CSV with the same name plus '-parameters'.

Parameters:

`folder : str`

The path to the output folder where the output files will be saved

`filetype : {'gpkg', 'csv', 'both'}, optional, default 'gpkg'`

The	type	of	file	that	the	sections	will	be	saved	as.
	gpkg:								GeoPackage	
	csv:								CSV	
	both:	GeoPackage	and	CSV						

`crs_output` : str | int | pyproj.CRS, optional, default None

The CRS to reproject the samples to before saving (only reprojects the samples that are saved and not the Samples object).

`tz_output` : str | timezone | pytz.BaseTzInfo, optional, default None

The timezone to convert the samples to before saving (only converts the samples that are saved and not the Samples object).

`coords` : bool, optional, default False

If True, x and y coordinates will be extracted from the centroid, midpoint, or point geometries and put in separate columns. This may facilitate subsequent extraction of data from external sources.