

# Package ‘ffcAPIClient’

January 27, 2020

**Type** Package

**Title** Functional Flows Calculator API Client

**Version** 0.9.5.3

**Author** Nick Santos, Ryan Peek

**Maintainer** Nick Santos <nrsantos@ucdavis.edu>

**Description** A client for the Python-based functional flows calculator API hosted at eflows.ucdavis.edu. Requires a token from the eflows.ucdavis.edu website to operate.

**License** MIT

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** true

**Imports** dplyr,  
jsonlite,  
httr,  
uuid,  
ggplot2,  
dataRetrieval,  
lubridate,  
R6,  
nhdplusTools,  
units,  
tidyr,  
data.table (>= 1.12.8)

**Suggests** testthat (>= 2.1.0)

**RoxygenNote** 7.0.2

## R topics documented:

assess_alteration . . . . .	2
determine_status . . . . .	3
early_or_late . . . . .	4
evaluate_alteration . . . . .	4
evaluate_gage_alteration . . . . .	5
ffcAPIClient . . . . .	6
FFCProcessor . . . . .	6
flow_metrics . . . . .	7

get_comid_for_lon_lat . . . . .	7
get_comid_for_usgs_gage . . . . .	8
get_drh . . . . .	8
get_ffc_parameters_for_comid . . . . .	8
get_ffc_results_for_df . . . . .	9
get_ffc_results_for_usgs_gage . . . . .	10
get_predicted_flow_metrics . . . . .	10
get_results_as_df . . . . .	10
get_results_for_name . . . . .	11
get_token . . . . .	11
get_usgs_gage_data . . . . .	11
merge_list . . . . .	12
plot_drh . . . . .	12
process_data . . . . .	12
set_token . . . . .	13
single_metric_alteration . . . . .	13
stream_class_data . . . . .	14
USGSGage . . . . .	14

<b>Index</b>	<b>16</b>
--------------	-----------

---

assess_alteration	<i>Assess hydrologic alteration by flow metric</i>
-------------------	--

---

## Description

Returns a data frame with an alteration status assessment for every flow metric.

## Usage

```
assess_alteration(percentiles, predictions, ffc_values, comid, annual)
```

## Arguments

percentiles	dataframe of calculated FFC results percentiles, including the Metric column and columns for p10,p25,p50,p75, and p90
predictions	dataframe of predicted flow metrics, as returned from get_predicted_flow_metrics.
ffc_values	dataframe of the raw results from the online FFC, as returned by evaluate_gage_alteration or get_results_as_df
comid	integer comid of the stream segment the previous parameters are for
annual	boolean indicating whether to run a year over year analysis. If TRUE, then the parameter percentiles changes and should be a data frame with only two columns - the first is still Metric, but the second is just value representing the current year's value for the metric. predictions should then still have fields for the Metric, p25, and p75, where p25 and p75 represent the lower and upper bounds for comparison, regardless of if they're calculated percentiles, or another set of bounds. When run in an annual mode, it assesses alteration similarly to the description above, and with the same result structure, but provides likely_unaltered results when value is within the p25 and p75 values, and provides likely_altered otherwise without additional checks described in the CEFF guidance document, appendix F.

## Details

Generates an alteration status assessment for every flow metric based on the rules developed under CEFF for flow alteration. This function pairs well with the boxplots for visualizing alteration, but only this function assesses the data under the rules. Returns a data frame with columns "Metric" (note capitalization, consistent with other data frames with a flow metric, even if not consistent with otherwise lowercase names here, sorry), "status\_code", "status", "alteration\_type", and "comid".

The comid will be the same for all rows, and will match what you provide as an input, but allows for merging of these results into larger tables.

status\_code will be -1 (likely altered), 0 (indeterminate), 1 (likely unaltered), or NA (insufficient data to determine). status will be a text description of the status code (-1=likely\_altered, 0=indeterminate, 1=likely\_unaltered, NA=Not\_enough\_data). alteration\_type will tell you the direction of potential alteration for likely altered and indeterminate metrics. It will provide "low" or "high" values for most metrics and "early" or "late" values for timing metrics. For likely\_unaltered metrics, it will provide "none\_found" and for metrics with insufficient data, it will provide "undeterminable".

---

determine_status	<i>Calculate the alteration status of a flow metric</i>
------------------	---

---

## Description

This method returns an alteration status record for a specific flow metric, but requires the calculated FFC percentiles, a lower and upper bound, and a set of observations that have already been assessed for whether they're within that lower or upper bound so that they are -1 for low/early, 0 for within range, and 1 for high/late. They need to already be assessed because some metrics (\*ahem\* timing) need their own ways to assess low/high, or early/late

## Usage

```
determine_status(
  median,
  predictions,
  assessed_observations,
  metric,
  days_in_water_year,
  annual
)
```

## Arguments

median	The calculated median value from the observed data
predictions	The predicted metric values for this specific metric - should have p10, p25, p50, p75, p90 values
assessed_observations	vector of raw observed metric values (FFC output) that has already been assessed for whether it is in range so that records that are low/early are -1, records that are in range are 0, and records that are high/late are 1
metric	character name of the metric - case sensitive. Currently only used for timing metrics, which must have "_Tim" in the name

days\_in\_water\_year

numeric of how many days in the water year (typically 365, but could be 366).

---

early\_or\_late

*Determine if timing metrics are early, late, or in range*

---

### Description

Properly rolls over the calendar at 365 days, but can tell you if a metric is early, late, or "within range" based on the modeled early\_value, modeled late\_value, and the actual value.

### Usage

```
early_or_late(value, early_value, late_value, days_in_water_year)
```

### Details

It returns within range (0) if the value is between early\_value and late\_value. If not, it splits the distance between late\_value and early\_value in two, rolling over at the end of the calendar year, and assesses if the value is closer to the late\_value (then returns late (1)), or the early value (then returns early (-1)).

This function is currently not used in the package - instead, a simpler evaluation that does not roll over the calendar year is used.

---

evaluate\_alteration

*Generate FFC Results and Plots for Timeseries Data*

---

### Description

Generate FFC Results and Plots for Timeseries Data

### Usage

```
evaluate_alteration(
  timeseries_df,
  token,
  comid,
  longitude,
  latitude,
  plot_output_folder,
  date_format_string
)
```

---

`evaluate_gage_alteration`*Generate FFC Results and Plots for Gage Data*

---

## Description

This is a shortcut function that does most of the heavy lifting for you. Runs data through the FFC and transforms all results.

## Usage

```
evaluate_gage_alteration(gage_id, token, plot_output_folder, plot_results)
```

## Arguments

<code>gage_id</code>	The USGS gage ID to pull timeseries data from
<code>token</code>	The token used to access the online FFC - see the Github repository's README under Setup for how to get this.
<code>plot_output_folder</code>	Optional - when not provided, plots are displayed interactively only. When provided, they are displayed interactively and saved as files named by the functional flow component into the provided folder

## Details

If you provide it a USGS gage ID and your token to access the online functional flows calculator, this function then:

1. Download the timeseries data for the USGS gage
2. Look up the predicted unimpaired metric values for the gage's stream segment
3. Send the timeseries data through the functional flows calculator
4. Transform the results into a data frame with rows for years and metric values as columns
5. Produce percentiles for those metric values using R's recommended quantile method type 8 (which may return differing results from other methods, Excel, etc)
6. Transform the dimensionless reference hydrograph data into a data frame
7. Output plots comparing the observed timeseries data with the predicted unimpaired metric values.

Items 4, 5, and 6 are returned back to the caller as a list with keys "ffc\_results", "ffc\_percentiles", and "drh\_data" for any further processing. The list also includes "predicted\_percentiles", with the predicted flow metrics for the segment.

---

ffcAPIClient	<i>ffcAPIClient: Processes time-series flow data using the online functional flows calculator</i>
--------------	---

---

## Description

For now, see the documentation for [evaluate\\_alteration](#) and [evaluate\\_gage\\_alteration](#)

## Examples

```
## Not run:
# If you have a gage and a token, you can get all results simply by running
ffcAPIClient::evaluate_gage_alteration(gage_id = 11427000, token = "your_token", plot_output_folder = "C:/Use
# output_folder is optional. When provided, it will save plots there. It will show plots regardless.

# If you have a data frame with flow and date fields that isn't a gage, you can run
ffcAPIClient::evaluate_alteration(timeseries_df = your_df, token = "your_token", plot_output_folder = "C:/Use
# it also *REQUIRES* you provide either a comid argument with the stream segment COMID, or both
# longitude and latitude arguments.
# Make sure that dates are in the same format as the FFC requires on its website. We may add reformatting in the f

## End(Not run)
```

---

FFCProcessor	<i>FFCProcessor Class</i>
--------------	---------------------------

---

## Description

The new workhorse of the client - this class is meant to bring together the scattershot functions in other parts of the package so that data can be integrated into a single class with a single set of tasks. Other functions are likely to be supported for a while (and this may even rely on them), but long run, much of the code in this file might move into this class, with the shortcut functions creating this class behind the scenes and returning an instance of this object.

## Details

More details to come, and more examples. For now, still use the general functions [evaluate\\_alteration](#) and [evaluate\\_gage\\_alteration](#)

## Methods

### Public methods:

- [FFCProcessor\\$get\\_ffc\\_results\(\)](#)
- [FFCProcessor\\$evaluate\\_alteration\(\)](#)
- [FFCProcessor\\$clone\(\)](#)

### Method [get\\_ffc\\_results\(\)](#):

*Usage:*

`FFCProcessor$get_ffc_results()`

**Method** evaluate\_alteration():

*Usage:*

```
FFCProcessor$evaluate_alteration()
```

**Method** clone(): The objects of this class are cloneable with this method.

*Usage:*

```
FFCProcessor$clone(deep = FALSE)
```

*Arguments:*

deep Whether to make a deep clone.

---

flow\_metrics

*Modeled flow metric predictions for all stream segments*


---

## Description

Contains the 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th, and 90th percentile values for each flow metric and stream segment combination. It is a data frame where the metrics are rows with names in the Metric field, stream segment ID is in the COMID field and percentiles are available as fields such as pct\_10, pct\_25, etc for each percentile.

## Usage

```
flow_metrics
```

## Format

A data frame :

**name** text

**name** text ...

<https://github.com/ceff-tech/>

---

get\_comid\_for\_lon\_lat *Retrieves COMID for a given USGS gage which collects daily data.*


---

## Description

This function returns the COMID associated with a specific USGS gage. It can be used to associate gage data with flow metric predictions a stream segment identified with the com\_id input variable.

## Usage

```
get_comid_for_lon_lat(longitude, latitude)
```

## Arguments

longitude          numeric. Longitude or X.

latitude          numeric. Longitude or Y.

---

```
get_comid_for_usgs_gage
```

*Retrieves COMID for a given USGS gage which collects daily data.*

---

### Description

This function returns the COMID associated with a specific USGS gage. It can be used to associate gage data with flow metric predictions a stream segment identified with the `com_id` input variable.

### Usage

```
get_comid_for_usgs_gage(gage_id)
```

### Arguments

`gage_id`                      character. A character formatted 8 digit USGS Gage ID.

---

```
get_drh
```

*Returns the dimensionless reference hydrograph results as a data frame*

---

### Description

Returns the dimensionless reference hydrograph results as a data frame

### Usage

```
get_drh(results)
```

---

```
get_ffc_parameters_for_comid
```

*Get the parameters sent to the FFC for a stream segment*

---

### Description

Given a COMID, looks up the hydrogeomorphic stream classification, then uses that to find the default parameters that should be sent to the FFC online for that stream class. Returns a nested list of parameters to send to the FFC.

### Usage

```
get_ffc_parameters_for_comid(comid)
```

### Arguments

`comid`                      An NHD stream segment COMID



---

get\_ffc\_results\_for\_df

*Run Data Frame Through Functional Flows Calculator*


---

## Description

This is primarily an internal function used to run data through the functional flows calculator online, but is also available for those that wish to run the data themselves and then do any other handling and transformation for postprocessing on their own.

## Usage

```
get_ffc_results_for_df(flows_df, comid, flow_field, date_field, start_date)
```

## Arguments

flows_df	DataFrame. A time series data frame with flow and date columns
comid	character. The COMID of the stream segment
flow_field	character, default "flow". The name of the field in df that contains flow values.
date_field	character, default "date". The name of the field in df that contains date values for each flow. The date field must be in MM/DD/YYYY format as either factor or character values - true dates likely will not work based on the API we're using. If you need to convert date values, add a field to your existing data frame with the values in MM/DD/YYYY format before providing it to this function.
start_date	character, default "10/1". What month and day should the water year start on? Neither month nor day needs to be zero-padded here, so March first could just be 3/1, while December 12th can be 12/12.

## Details

Most people will want to use [evaluate\\_alteration](#) (for timeseries dataframes) or [evaluate\\_gage\\_alteration](#) (for USGS gages) instead.

Internally, this is the primary function to use from the API client itself to obtain raw FFC results. It will generate a unique ID, run the data frame through the FFC, and then delete the results for that ID from the website so as not to clutter up the user's account, or store too much data on the server side.

## Value

list of results from the functional flows calculator. More information will be forthcoming as we inspect the structure of what is returned.

---

```
get_ffc_results_for_usgs_gage
```

*Run Gage Data Through the Functional Flows Calculator*

---

### Description

Provided with an integer Gage ID, this function pulls the timeseries data for the gage and processes it in a single step. Returns the functional flow calculator's results list.

### Usage

```
get_ffc_results_for_usgs_gage(gage_id)
```

### Arguments

gage_id	integer. The USGS Gage ID value for the gage you want to return timeseries data for
---------	---

### Value

list. Functional Flow Calculator results

---

```
get_predicted_flow_metrics
```

*Retrieves flow predicted flow metric values for a stream segment*

---

### Description

This function returns the 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th, and 90th percentile values for each flow metric as predicted for the stream segment you identify with the com\_id input variable. It returns a data frame where the metrics are rows with names in the metric field, and percentiles are available as fields such as pct\_10, pct\_25, etc for each percentile.

### Usage

```
get_predicted_flow_metrics(com_id)
```

### Arguments

com_id	character. A string of a NHD COMID to retrieve metrics for.
--------	---

---

```
get_results_as_df
```

*Convert FFC results list to data frame with metric names*

---

### Description

More documentation forthcoming

### Usage

```
get_results_as_df(results, drop_fields)
```

---

get_results_for_name	<i>Retrieve processed results from FFC.</i>
----------------------	---

---

**Description**

Gets the results for the given named run of the FFC. Returns the nested list - all other processing must be handled by the caller.

**Usage**

```
get_results_for_name(name, autodelete)
```

**Arguments**

name	the name of the run to retrieve from the online FFC
autodelete	when TRUE, deletes the run in the online FFC, if found. When FALSE, leaves run in FFC online for later retrieval.

---

get_token	<i>Retrieve Previously Set Token</i>
-----------	--------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Retrieves the authorization token previously set by set\_token in the same R session.

**Usage**

```
get_token()
```

---

get_usgs_gage_data	<i>Retrieves USGS timeseries gage data</i>
--------------------	--

---

**Description**

This is just a helper function that calls the gage constructor, gets the flows and returns them in one step. Useful in situations where we don't need the flexibility of the USGSGage class

**Usage**

```
get_usgs_gage_data(gage_id)
```

**Arguments**

gage_id	integer. The USGS Gage ID value for the gage you want to return timeseries data for
---------	---

**Value**

dataframe. Will include a flow field (CFS) and a date field (MM/DD/YYYY)

---

merge_list	<i>Merges Data Frames by Year Column</i>
------------	--

---

**Description**

Just a simple function that can be used with Reduce to merge multiple data frames together by year

**Usage**

```
merge_list(df1, df2)
```

---

plot_drh	<i>Plots the Dimensionless Reference Hydrograph</i>
----------	---

---

**Description**

Given a set of results data from `get_ffc_results_for_df` or `get_ffc_results_for_usgs_gage`, processes the DRH data and returns a plot object.

**Usage**

```
plot_drh(results, output_path)
```

**Arguments**

results	list.
output_path,	default NULL. Optional. When set, saves the DRH plot to the output file path provided.

**Details**

Credit to Ryan Peek for the code in this function.

---

process_data	<i>Send flow data for processing</i>
--------------	--------------------------------------

---

**Description**

In most cases, you won't need to use this function! If you're wondering what to do, use `get_ffc_results_for_df` instead.

**Usage**

```
process_data(flows_df, params, flow_field, date_field, start_date, name)
```

**Details**

Sends flow timeseries data off to the functional flows calculator. Does not retrieve results!

---

set_token	<i>Set Eflows Website Access Token</i>
-----------	--

---

### Description

Provide the token string used for accessing the Eflows site. A token is a method of authorization for identifying your user account within scripts. By providing the token, this package uses your user account when interacting with the eflows web service/API.

### Usage

```
set_token(token_string)
```

### Arguments

token_string	character
--------------	-----------

---

single_metric_alteration	<i>Assess the alteration of a single flow metric</i>
--------------------------	--

---

### Description

Given a metric's calculated percentiles, raw FFC output values, and predictions, returns a row of information indicating whether or not that metric is likely altered, indeterminate, or likely unaltered. Includes fields with a text status, an integer code (1=likely unaltered, 2=indeterminate, 3=likely altered), as well as for which direction alteration is (or may be) in if it's indeterminate or likely altered (values are low/high or early/late for timing metrics)

### Usage

```
single_metric_alteration(
  percentiles,
  predictions,
  ffc_values,
  days_in_water_year,
  annual
)
```

### Arguments

percentiles	data frame row - should have a named value "p50" that can be accessed, at the very least and a column Metric with the flow metric in it. These are calculated percentile values from the FFC.
predictions	data frame (or other named field item) the predicted flow metric values for the segment and metric
ffc_values	vector of raw observed metric values (FFC output) for this metric
days_in_water_year	numeric of how many days in the water year (defaults to 365, but could be 366).

---

stream_class_data	<i>Geomorphic Stream Classification</i>
-------------------	---

---

### Description

Contains the geomorphic classification by stream COMID for ~70,000 stream segments in California (low-order streams excluded). Streams were classified as described in Lane, Belize A., Samuel Sandoval-Solis, Eric D. Stein, Sarah M. Yarnell, Gregory B. Pasternack, and Helen E. Dahlke. 2018. "Beyond Metrics? The Role of Hydrologic Baseline Archetypes in Environmental Water Management." *Environmental Management* 62 (4): 678–93. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00267-018-1077-7>.

### Usage

```
stream_class_data
```

### Format

A data frame :

**CLASS** The stream classification ID

**COMID** The NHD COMID of the stream segment

**CLASS\_CODE** The character stream classification ID - follows the form: SM = Snowmelt, HSR = High Volume Snowmelt and Rain, LSR = Low Volume Snowmelt and Rain, WS = Winter Storms, GW = Groundwater, PGR = Perennial Groundwater and Rain, FER = Flashy Ephemeral Rain, RGW = Rain and Seasonal Groundwater, HLP = High elevation, low precipitation

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00267-018-1077-7>

---

USGSGage	<i>USGS Gage Retrieval Tools</i>
----------	----------------------------------

---

### Description

This class retrieves data for a USGS gage.

### Details

```
#library(ffcAPIClient) #gageid <- 11427000 #gage <- USGSGage$new() #gage$gid <- gageid #gage$get_data()
#gage$get_comid() #gage$comid [1] 14996611 #ffcAPIClient::get_predicted_flow_metrics(gage$comid)
Metric COMID p10 p25 p50 p75 p90 source 70804 DS_Dur_WS 14996611 1.051875e+02 1.273438e+02
154.0625 1.785563e+02 1.953908e+02 model 211050 DS_Mag_50 14996611 4.998793e+01 6.732828e+01
104.4028 1.464183e+02 1.882733e+02 model 351296 DS_Mag_90 14996611 9.314097e+01 1.291930e+02
173.6844 2.382053e+02 3.393799e+02 model 491542 DS_Tim 14996611 2.720000e+02 2.823875e+02
296.8875 3.070000e+02 3.210167e+02 model 586665 FA_Dur 14996611 2.000000e+00 3.000000e+00
4.0000 6.000000e+00 8.000000e+00 obs 702508 FA_Mag 14996611 1.294269e+02 1.886283e+02
289.6838 4.540329e+02 8.514823e+02 model 842754 FA_Tim 14996611 7.816667e+00 1.400000e+01
24.6250 2.900000e+01 4.217000e+01 model 983000 Peak_10 14996611 1.243107e+04 1.947545e+04
22830.3355 3.124928e+04 3.767889e+04 model 1123246 Peak_20 14996611 8.078893e+03 1.227363e+04
```

```

20218.4829 2.087196e+04 2.087196e+04 model 1263492 Peak_50 14996611 3.532988e+03 7.350986e+03
8542.1191 8.969386e+03 8.969386e+03 model 1358615 Peak_Dur_10 14996611 1.000000e+00
1.000000e+00 1.0000 2.000000e+00 4.000000e+00 obs 1429335 Peak_Dur_20 14996611 1.000000e+00
1.000000e+00 2.0000 3.000000e+00 6.000000e+00 obs 1500055 Peak_Dur_50 14996611 1.000000e+00
1.000000e+00 4.0000 1.000000e+01 2.900000e+01 obs 1570775 Peak_Fre_10 14996611 1.000000e+00
1.000000e+00 1.0000 1.000000e+00 2.000000e+00 obs 1641495 Peak_Fre_20 14996611 1.000000e+00
1.000000e+00 1.0000 2.000000e+00 3.000000e+00 obs 1712215 Peak_Fre_50 14996611 1.000000e+00
1.000000e+00 2.0000 3.000000e+00 5.000000e+00 obs 1828058 SP_Dur 14996611 4.700000e+01
5.900000e+01 72.0000 9.527500e+01 1.215417e+02 model 1968304 SP_Mag 14996611 1.067727e+03
1.662598e+03 2489.0563 3.771512e+03 5.809320e+03 model 2063427 SP_ROC 14996611 3.845705e-
02 4.863343e-02 0.0625 8.132020e-02 1.141117e-01 obs 2179270 SP_Tim 14996611 1.607717e+02
1.905000e+02 218.7500 2.354750e+02 2.447583e+02 model 2319516 Wet_BFL_Dur 14996611
7.633333e+01 1.073000e+02 141.1958 1.633750e+02 1.875000e+02 model 2459762 Wet_BFL_Mag_10
14996611 1.519943e+02 1.960031e+02 278.2581 4.384614e+02 5.489183e+02 model 2600008
Wet_BFL_Mag_50 14996611 4.148992e+02 5.902507e+02 924.1728 1.175461e+03 1.426576e+03
model 2740254 Wet_Tim 14996611 4.937500e+01 5.905000e+01 73.0000 8.835625e+01 1.035083e+02
model

```

## Methods

### Public methods:

- `USGSGage$validate()`
- `USGSGage$get_data()`
- `USGSGage$get_comid()`
- `USGSGage$get_predicted_metrics()`
- `USGSGage$clone()`

### Method `validate()`:

*Usage:*

```
USGSGage$validate(latlong)
```

### Method `get_data()`:

*Usage:*

```
USGSGage$get_data()
```

### Method `get_comid()`:

*Usage:*

```
USGSGage$get_comid()
```

### Method `get_predicted_metrics()`:

*Usage:*

```
USGSGage$get_predicted_metrics()
```

### Method `clone()`: The objects of this class are cloneable with this method.

*Usage:*

```
USGSGage$clone(deep = FALSE)
```

*Arguments:*

`deep` Whether to make a deep clone.

# Index

## \*Topic **datasets**

- flow\_metrics, [7](#)
- stream\_class\_data, [14](#)

assess\_alteration, [2](#)

determine\_status, [3](#)

early\_or\_late, [4](#)

evaluate\_alteration, [4](#), [6](#), [9](#)

evaluate\_gage\_alteration, [5](#), [6](#), [9](#)

ffcAPIClient, [6](#)

FFCProcessor, [6](#)

flow\_metrics, [7](#)

get\_comid\_for\_lon\_lat, [7](#)

get\_comid\_for\_usgs\_gage, [8](#)

get\_drh, [8](#)

get\_ffc\_parameters\_for\_comid, [8](#)

get\_ffc\_results\_for\_df, [9](#)

get\_ffc\_results\_for\_usgs\_gage, [10](#)

get\_predicted\_flow\_metrics, [10](#)

get\_results\_as\_df, [10](#)

get\_results\_for\_name, [11](#)

get\_token, [11](#)

get\_usgs\_gage\_data, [11](#)

merge\_list, [12](#)

plot\_drh, [12](#)

process\_data, [12](#)

set\_token, [13](#)

single\_metric\_alteration, [13](#)

stream\_class\_data, [14](#)

USGSGage, [14](#)