

Package ‘ritwals’

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Title R Interface to WALS

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Description Provides an intuitive R interface to the World Atlas of Language Structures (WALS). The current version makes available the 2014 version of WALS Online (the most recent version as of this writing).

Depends R (>= 2.10)

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Disclaimer Portions of this package constitute a derivative work of the World Atlas of Language Structures (Dryer & Haspelmath 2013).

Changes Semantically, the WALS has not been changed upon incorporation into this software package. What has been done is to collate all the various data files WALS provides (on languages, on features, on geographical information...) into a single data frame that supplies the entire atlas in one place, and enhance this with functions that assist in accessing the atlas data.

Reference Dryer, Matthew S. & Haspelmath, Martin (eds.) 2013. The World Atlas of Language Structures Online. Leipzig: Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. <http://wals.info>.

Encoding UTF-8

LazyData true

RoxygenNote 6.1.1

URL <https://github.com/hkauhanen/ritwals>

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contingency_table	<i>Contingency Tables</i>
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Description

Produce a contingency table from the values of two or more WALS features.

Usage

```
contingency_table(ids, names = TRUE, absolute = TRUE, data = WALS)
```

Arguments

ids	Vector of feature IDs
names	Boolean; should the output use prose value descriptions? If FALSE, value IDs are used instead.
absolute	Boolean; should the output be in the form of absolute frequencies? If FALSE, relative frequencies are outputted.
data	Optionally a data frame, e.g. a subset of WALS

Details

This function calls [intersect_features](#) internally to establish the database intersection based on which a contingency table may be created.

Value

An n -by- n contingency table, where n is the length of `ids`

Examples

```
# 2x2 contingency table (absolute frequencies) of the first two features:
tab <- contingency_table(c("1A", "2A"))

# Run a chi-square test on the above:
chisq.test(tab)

# 3x3 contingency table of the first three features, showing relative
# frequencies and value IDs instead of value descriptions:
contingency_table(c("1A", "2A", "3A"), names=FALSE, absolute=FALSE)
```

country_codes	<i>Country Codes</i>
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Description

Return the country codes associated with a language

Usage

```
country_codes(id)
```

Arguments

`id` Language's WALS ID, or a vector of IDs

Value

A list of character vectors

Examples

```
country_codes("fre")
unlist(country_codes("fre"))
country_codes(c("fre", "ger"))
```

feature_metadata	<i>WALS Feature Metadata</i>
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Description

Returns information about a WALS feature. Use this to find the possible values the feature can take.

Usage

```
feature_metadata(id)
```

Arguments

id Feature’s WALS ID, or a vector of IDs

Value

A dataframe with the following columns:

feature_ID Feature’s WALS ID

feature Feature’s name

value_ID Value ID

value Prose description of value

Examples

```
feature_metadata("13A")
feature_metadata("13A")$value_ID
feature_metadata(c("13A", "9A", "83A"))
```

filter_WALS	<i>Filter WALS Data</i>
-------------	-------------------------

Description

Filter the [WALS](#) dataset down to a subset by a logical condition.

Usage

```
filter_WALS(expr, data = WALS)
```

Arguments

expr Logical expression, must evaluate to a Boolean

data Optionally, a data frame (e.g. any subset of [WALS](#))

Details

The expr argument should refer to columns in the [WALS](#) data frame.

Value

A portion of the [WALS](#) data frame

See Also

See [WALS](#) for a description of the columns of the returned data frame.

Examples

```
# Get the subset of WALs pertaining to Afro-Asiatic languages:
filter_WALS(family=="Afro-Asiatic")

# Get the Semitic languages on the African continent:
filter_WALS(genus=="Semitic" & macroarea=="Africa")

# Get the set of Celtic and Romance languages:
filter_WALS(genus=="Celtic" | genus=="Romance")

# The same thing:
filter_WALS(genus %in% c("Celtic", "Romance"))

# Get languages whose latitudes fall between 10 and 20 degrees:
filter_WALS(latitude >= 10 & latitude <= 20)

# Get languages whose WALs language ID begins with the letters 'la'
filter_WALS(substr(language_ID, 1, 2) == "la")
```

get_feature	Get Feature
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Description

Return the representation of a feature in WALs.

Usage

```
get_feature(id, data = WALs)
```

Arguments

id	Feature's WALs ID
data	Optionally, a data frame (such as a subset of WALS)

Details

Returns the relevant portion of the [WALS](#) data frame. Feature values and value IDs are returned as factors.

Value

A data frame

great_circle_distance *Great-Circle Distance*

Description

Calculates the great-circle distance between two languages as determined by their WALS latitude-longitude coordinates.

Usage

```
great_circle_distance(id1, id2)
```

Arguments

id1	WALS ID of first language
id2	WALS ID of second language

Details

WALS defines the geographical representation of a language as a point in latitude-longitude space. Calculation of great-circle distance is by the haversine formula assuming a perfectly spherical Earth of radius 6,371 km.

Examples

```
a <- great_circle_distance("fre", "ger")
b <- great_circle_distance("ger", "rus")
c <- great_circle_distance("fre", "rus")
if (a + b <= c) {
  print("The triangle inequality works!")
}
```

intersect_features *Intersect Features*

Description

Return a subset of WALS consisting of only those languages for which data is attested in each of a given set of features; in effect, produce a set-theoretic intersection of the features.

Usage

```
intersect_features(ids, data = WALS)
```


Value

A dataframe with the following columns:

language_ID Language's WALs ID
 iso_code Language's ISO code
 glottocode Language's Glottocode
 language Language's name
 latitude Language's latitude
 longitude Language's longitude
 genus Language's genus
 family Language's family
 macroarea Language's macroarea
 countrycodes Country codes associated with the language
 in_WALS_100 Boolean flag: TRUE if language is included in the WALs 100 sample
 in_WALS_200 Boolean flag: TRUE if language is included in the WALs 200 sample

Examples

```
language_metadata("fin")
language_metadata("fin")$family
language_metadata(c("fin", "swe"))
```

nearest_geo_neighbours

Nearest Geographical Neighbours

Description

Return the k nearest geographical neighbours of a language.

Usage

```
nearest_geo_neighbours(id, k, data = WALs)
```

Arguments

id	Language's WALs ID
k	How many neighbours to return
data	Dataset to consider; by default the entire WALS

Details

Computed using [great_circle_distance](#). By default (`data = WALS`), all languages in the WALS atlas will be considered in the computation of the nearest neighbours. By supplying a non-default data argument, it is possible to override this behaviour, e.g. to supply only a subset of the languages.

If the language does not have as many as k neighbours (e.g. because of a strict filtering by data), the neighbours that *are* found are returned with a warning.

Examples

```
# 10 nearest neighbours of Egyptian Arabic:
nearest_geo_neighbours("aeg", k=10)

# 10 nearest neighbours of Egyptian Arabic among those languages for
# which feature 13A is attested:
nearest_geo_neighbours("aeg", k=10, data=filter_WALS(feature_ID=="13A"))

# 10 nearest neighbours of Egyptian Arabic among those languages for
# which feature 13A is attested, among the Afro-Asiatic family:
nearest_geo_neighbours("aeg", k=10,
  data=filter_WALS(feature_ID=="13A" & family=="Afro-Asiatic"))
```

```
nearest_geo_neighbours_discoidal
```

Nearest Geographical Neighbours (Discoidal)

Description

Return the neighbours of a language residing within a disc of a specified radius from that language.

Usage

```
nearest_geo_neighbours_discoidal(id, radius, data = WALS)
```

Arguments

<code>id</code>	Language's WALS ID
<code>radius</code>	Radius of disc in km
<code>data</code>	Dataset to consider; by default the entire WALS

Details

Computed using [great_circle_distance](#). By default (`data = WALS`), all languages in the WALS atlas will be considered in the computation of the nearest neighbours. By supplying a non-default data argument, it is possible to override this behaviour, e.g. to supply only a subset of the languages.

Examples

```
# Neighbours of Finnish within 1000 km:
nearest_geo_neighbours_discoidal("fin", radius=1000)

# Neighbours of Finnish within 1000 km, within the Uralic family:
nearest_geo_neighbours_discoidal("fin", radius=1000,
  data=filter_WALS(family=="Uralic"))
```

sample_random	<i>Random Samples</i>
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Description

Take a random sample of N languages from WALS.

Usage

```
sample_random(N, data = WALS)
```

Arguments

N	Sample size
data	Optionally, a data frame (e.g. the output of filter_WALS)

Details

Languages in data are sampled uniformly at random without replacement, and their representation in [WALS](#) is returned.

Value

A subset of the [WALS](#) data frame.

Examples

```
# Just a random random sample of 100 languages:
random_WALS <- sample_random(100)

# Random sample of 50 tonal languages (feature 13A has value 2 or 3):
tonal_lges <- filter_WALS(feature_ID == "13A" & value_ID %in% 2:3)
random_tonals <- sample_random(50, data=tonal_lges)

# Random sample of 20 languages from the WALS 100-language sample:
sample_random(20, sample_WALS_100())
```

sample_WALS_100	<i>WALS 100-Language Sample</i>
-----------------	---------------------------------

Description

Return the WALS 100-language sample.

Usage

sample_WALS_100()

Details

Returns the portion of [WALS](#) where in_WALS_100 is TRUE.

Value

A subset of the [WALS](#) data frame.

sample_WALS_200	<i>WALS 200-Language Sample</i>
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Description

Return the WALS 200-language sample.

Usage

sample_WALS_200()

Details

Returns the portion of [WALS](#) where in_WALS_200 is TRUE. Note that the WALS 200-languages sample contains 202 languages.

Value

A subset of the [WALS](#) data frame.

WALS

*World Atlas of Language Structures***Description**

The full WALS dataset.

Format

A data frame of 76465 rows (each row representing one language-feature combination) and 20 variables:

combined_ID Identifier combining feature_ID and language_ID; identifies a unique row in the data frame

feature_ID Feature ID

feature Feature name

value_ID Value ID

value Value name

code_ID Identifier combining feature_ID and value_ID

language_ID Language ID

iso_code Language's ISO code

glottocode Language's Glottolog code

language Language name

family Language's family

genus Language's genus

macroarea Language's macroarea

countrycodes Country codes associated with language

latitude Language's latitude in degrees

longitude Language's longitude in degrees

in_WALS_100 Boolean: TRUE if language belongs to the WALS 100-language sample

in_WALS_200 Boolean: TRUE if language belongs to the WALS 200-language sample

source Information source for this language-feature combination

contributors WALS contributors for this language-feature combination

Source

<http://wals.info>

WALS_features	<i>WALS Feature Metadata</i>
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Description

Information about WALS features and their possible values.

Format

A data frame with the following variables:

feature_ID Feature's WALS ID

feature Feature's name

value_ID Value ID

value Value's name

code_ID Identifier combining feature_ID and value_ID

Source

<http://wals.info>

WALS_languages	<i>WALS Language Metadata</i>
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Description

Information about the languages in WALS.

Format

A data frame of 2679 rows (one row per language) with the following 12 variables:

language_ID Language's WALS ID (or 'WALS code')

iso_code Language's ISO code

glottocode Language's Glottolog code

language Language's name

family Language's family

genus Language's genus

macroarea Language's macroarea

countrycodes Country codes associated with language

latitude Language's latitude in degrees

longitude Language's longitude in degrees

in_WALS_100 Boolean: TRUE if language belongs to the WALS 100-language sample

in_WALS_200 Boolean: TRUE if language belongs to the WALS 200-language sample

Source

<http://wals.info>

Examples

```
# The number of WALS genera:  
length(unique(WALS_languages$genus))  
  
# Frequency table of languages per family:  
table(WALS_languages$family)
```

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