

Package: fasterize (via r-universe)

March 9, 2025

Title Fast Polygon to Raster Conversion

Version 1.1.0.9001

Description Provides a drop-in replacement for rasterize() from the 'raster' package that takes polygon vector or data frame objects, and is much faster. There is support for the main options provided by the rasterize() function, including setting the field used and background value, and options for aggregating multi-layer rasters. Uses the scan line algorithm attributed to Wylie et al. (1967) [doi:10.1145/1465611.1465619](https://doi.org/10.1145/1465611.1465619). Note that repository originally was hosted at 'Github' 'ecohealthalliance/fasterize' but was migrated to 'hypertidy/fasterize' in March 2025, and can be found indexed on 'R universe' <https://cran.r-universe.dev/fasterize>.

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URL <https://github.com/hypertidy/fasterize>

BugReports <https://github.com/hypertidy/fasterize/issues>

RoxygenNote 7.3.2

Suggests testthat, microbenchmark, knitr, rmarkdown, spelling, geos

Depends R (>= 3.3.0)

Imports Rcpp, raster (>= 2.8-3), wk

LinkingTo Rcpp, RcppArmadillo

Roxygen list(markdown = TRUE)

Encoding UTF-8

VignetteBuilder knitr

Language en-US

Config/pak/sysreqs libgdal-dev gdal-bin libgeos-dev libproj-dev
libsqlite3-dev

Repository <https://hypertidy.r-universe.dev>

RemoteUrl <https://github.com/hypertidy/fasterize>

RemoteRef HEAD

RemoteSha 53a054133cd403628c8c5ad4ecc7e6e04bc9614a

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fasterize	<i>Rasterize a vector or dataframe object of polygons</i>
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Description

Rasterize set of polygons

Usage

```
fasterize(
  sf,
  raster,
  field = NULL,
  fun = "last",
  background = NA_real_,
  by = NULL
)
```

Arguments

sf	a polygon vector or data frame object with a geometry column of POLYGON and/or MULTIPOLYGON (equivalent) objects.
raster	A raster object. Used as a template for the raster output. Can be created with raster::raster() . The fasterize package provides a method to create a raster object from an polygon dataset.
field	character (or numeric vector). The name of a column in sf, providing a value for each of the polygons rasterized. If NULL (default), all polygons will be given a value of 1. If a numeric vector this value will be used as the value given to the pixel. (No recycling is done).
fun	character. The name of a function by which to combine overlapping polygons. Currently takes "sum", "first", "last", "min", "max", "count", or "any". Future versions may include more functions or the ability to pass custom R/C++ functions. If you need to summarize by a different function, use <code>by=</code> to get a RasterBrick and then raster::stackApply() or raster::calc() to summarize.
background	numeric. Value to put in the cells that are not covered by any of the features of x. Default is NA.

by character. The name of a column in `sf` by which to aggregate layers. If set, `fasterize` will return a `RasterBrick` with as many layers as unique values of the `by` column.

Details

This is a high-performance replacement for `raster::rasterize()`.

The algorithm is based on the method described in course materials provided by [Wayne O. Cochran](#). The algorithm is originally attributed to Wylie et al. (1967) [doi:10.1145/1465611.1465619](#).

Note that original implementation worked only for `sf` dataframes of class "sf", but this now works for any polygon vector (`sfc`, `wkt`, `wkb`, `geos`) or dataframe with a polygon vector supported by the `wk` package handlers.

Value

A raster of the same size, extent, resolution and projection as the provided raster template.

References

Wylie, C., Romney, G., Evans, D., & Erdahl, A. (1967). Half-tone perspective drawings by computer. Proceedings of the November 14-16, 1967, Fall Joint Computer Conference. AFIPS '67 (Fall). [doi:10.1145/1465611.1465619](#)

Examples

```
library(wk)
library(fasterize)
p123 <- c(paste0("POLYGON ((-180 -20, -140 55, 10 0, -140 -60, -180 -20)",
               "(-150 -20, -100 -10, -110 20, -150 -20))"),
         "POLYGON ((-10 0, 140 60, 160 0, 140 -55, -10 0))",
         "POLYGON ((-125 0, 0 60, 40 5, 15 -45, -125 0))")
pols <- data.frame(value = seq_along(p123), geometry = wk::as_wkt(p123))
ex <- as.numeric(wk_bbox(pols))[c(1, 3, 2, 4)]
r <- raster::raster(raster::extent(ex), res = 1)
r <- fasterize(pols, r, field = "value", fun="sum")
plot(r)
```

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