

# Package ‘flowcluster’

July 5, 2025

**Title** Cluster Origin-Destination Flow Data

**Version** 0.1.0

**Description** Provides functionality for clustering origin-destination (OD) pairs, representing desire lines (or flows). This includes creating distance matrices between OD pairs and passing distance matrices to a clustering algorithm. See the academic paper Tao and Thill (2016) <[doi:10.1111/gean.12100](https://doi.org/10.1111/gean.12100)> for more details on spatial clustering of flows.

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**Encoding** UTF-8

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.2

**URL** <https://hussein-mahfouz.github.io/flowcluster/>

**Depends** R (>= 4.1.0)

**Imports** sf, dbscan, dplyr, glue, lwgeom, tibble, units, tidyr, tidyselect

**LazyData** true

**Suggests** testthat (>= 3.0.0)

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**NeedsCompilation** no

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add_flow_length	<i>Add Length Column to Flow Data</i>
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### Description

Also checks that 'origin' and 'destination' columns are present.

### Usage

```
add_flow_length(x)
```

### Arguments

x sf object of flows (LINESTRING, projected CRS)

### Value

sf object with an additional length\_m column (od length in meters)

### Examples

```
flows <- sf::st_transform(flows_leads, 3857)
flows <- add_flow_length(flows)
```

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add_xyuv	<i>Add Start/End Coordinates &amp; Flow IDs</i>
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### Description

Add Start/End Coordinates & Flow IDs

### Usage

```
add_xyuv(x)
```

### Arguments

x sf object of flows

**Value**

tibble with x, y, u, v, flow\_ID columns

**Examples**

```
flows <- sf::st_transform(flows_leeds, 3857)
flows <- add_flow_length(flows)
flows <- add_xyuv(flows)
```

---

cluster\_flows\_dbscan *Cluster Flows using DBSCAN*

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**Description**

See [dbscan](#) for details on the DBSCAN algorithm.

**Usage**

```
cluster_flows_dbscan(dist_mat, w_vec, x, eps, minPts)
```

**Arguments**

dist_mat	distance matrix
w_vec	weight vector
x	flows tibble with flow_ID
eps	DBSCAN epsilon parameter
minPts	DBSCAN minPts parameter

**Value**

flows tibble with an additional cluster column

**Examples**

```
flows <- sf::st_transform(flows_leeds, 3857)
flows <- head(flows, 100) # for testing
# Add flow lengths and coordinates
flows <- add_flow_length(flows)
# filter by length
flows <- filter_by_length(flows, length_min = 5000, length_max = 12000)
flows <- add_xyuv(flows)
# Calculate distances
distances <- flow_distance(flows, alpha = 1.5, beta = 0.5)
dmat <- distance_matrix(distances)
wvec <- weight_vector(dmat, flows, weight_col = "count")
clustered <- cluster_flows_dbscan(dmat, wvec, flows, eps = 8, minPts = 70)
```

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`dbscan_sensitivity`     *Sensitivity analysis of DBSCAN parameters for flow clustering. The function allows you to test different combinations of epsilon and minPts parameters for clustering flows using DBSCAN. It can be used to determine what parameter values make sense for your data*

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## Description

Sensitivity analysis of DBSCAN parameters for flow clustering. The function allows you to test different combinations of epsilon and minPts parameters for clustering flows using DBSCAN. It can be used to determine what parameter values make sense for your data

## Usage

```
dbscan_sensitivity(  
  dist_mat,  
  flows,  
  options_epsilon,  
  options_minpts,  
  w_vec = NULL  
)
```

## Arguments

`dist_mat`     a precalculated distance matrix between desire lines (output of `distance_matrix()`)  
`flows`        the original flows tibble (must contain `flow_ID` and 'count' column)  
`options_epsilon`  
              a vector of options for the epsilon parameter  
`options_minpts` a vector of options for the minPts parameter  
`w_vec`        Optional precomputed weight vector (otherwise computed internally from 'count' column)

## Value

a tibble with columns: `id` (to identify eps and minpts), `cluster`, `size` (number of desire lines in cluster), `count_sum` (total count per cluster)

## Examples

```
flows <- sf::st_transform(flows_leeds, 3857)  
flows <- head(flows, 1000) # for testing  
# Add flow lengths and coordinates  
flows <- add_flow_length(flows)  
# filter by length  
flows <- filter_by_length(flows, length_min = 5000, length_max = 12000)  
# Add x, y, u, v coordinates to flows  
flows <- add_xyuv(flows)
```

```

# Calculate distance matrix
distances <- flow_distance(flows, alpha = 1.5, beta = 0.5)
dmat <- distance_matrix(distances)
# Generate weight vector
w_vec <- weight_vector(dmat, flows, weight_col = "count")

# Define the parameters for sensitivity analysis
options_epsilon <- seq(1, 10, by = 2)
options_minpts <- seq(10, 100, by = 10)
# # Run the sensitivity analysis
results <- dbSCAN_sensitivity(
  dist_mat = dmat,
  flows = flows,
  options_epsilon = options_epsilon,
  options_minpts = options_minpts,
  w_vec = w_vec
)

```

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distance_matrix	<i>Convert Long-Format Distance Tibble to Matrix</i>
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## Description

Convert Long-Format Distance Tibble to Matrix

## Usage

```
distance_matrix(distances, distance_col = "fds")
```

## Arguments

distances      tibble with columns flow\_ID\_a, flow\_ID\_b, and distance  
distance\_col    column name for distance (default "fds")

## Value

distance matrix (tibble with rownames). The matrix has flow\_ID\_a as rownames and flow\_ID\_b as column names. This function converts the output of flow\_distance() into a format suitable for the [dbSCAN](#) clustering algorithm.

## Examples

```

flows <- sf::st_transform(flows_leeds, 3857)
flows <- head(flows, 100) # for testing
# Add flow lengths and coordinates
flows <- add_flow_length(flows)
flows <- add_xyuv(flows)
# Calculate distances
distances <- flow_distance(flows, alpha = 1.5, beta = 0.5)
dmat <- distance_matrix(distances)

```

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filter_by_length	<i>Filter Flows by Length</i>
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### Description

Filter Flows by Length

### Usage

```
filter_by_length(x, length_min = 0, length_max = Inf)
```

### Arguments

x	sf object with length_m
length_min	minimum length (default 0)
length_max	maximum length (default Inf)

### Value

filtered sf object. Flows with length\_m outside the specified range are removed.

### Examples

```
flows <- sf::st_transform(flows_leeds, 3857)
flows <- add_flow_length(flows)
flows <- filter_by_length(flows, length_min = 5000, length_max = 12000)
```

---

flows_leeds	<i>Example flow data for Leeds. It is from the 2021 census, and it contains all Origin - Destination flows at the MSOA level. For more info on census flow data, see the <a href="https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/aboutcensus/censusproducts/origindestinationflowdataONS">Rhrefhttps://www.ons.gov.uk/census/aboutcensus/censusproducts/origindestinationflowdataONS</a> documentation See data-raw/flows_leeds.R for how this data was created.</i>
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### Description

Example flow data for Leeds. It is from the 2021 census, and it contains all Origin - Destination flows at the MSOA level. For more info on census flow data, see the [ONS documentation](#) See data-raw/flows\_leeds.R for how this data was created.

### Usage

```
flows_leeds
```

**Format**

An object of class `sf` with `LINestring` geometry. It has the following columns:

**origin** MSOA code of origin zone

**destination** MSOA code of destination zone

**count** number of people moving from origin to destination

**geometry** desire line between origin and destination

**Source**

[https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census\\_2021\\_od](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census_2021_od)

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flow_distance	<i>Calculate Flow Distance and Dissimilarity</i>
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**Description**

This function calculates flow distance and dissimilarity measures between all pairs of flows based on the method described in @tao2016spatial.

**Usage**

```
flow_distance(x, alpha = 1, beta = 1)
```

**Arguments**

x	tibble with flow_ID, x, y, u, v, length_m
alpha	numeric, origin weight
beta	numeric, destination weight

**Value**

tibble of all OD pairs with fd, fds columns

**References**

Tao, R., Thill, J.-C., 2016. Spatial cluster detection in spatial flow data. *Geographical Analysis* 48, 355–372. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gean.12100>

**Examples**

```
flows <- sf::st_transform(flows_leeds, 3857)
flows <- head(flows, 100) # for testing
# Add flow lengths and coordinates
flows <- add_flow_length(flows)
flows <- add_xyuv(flows)
# Calculate distances
distances <- flow_distance(flows, alpha = 1.5, beta = 0.5)
```

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weight_vector	<i>Generate Weight Vector from Flows</i>
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**Description**

Generate Weight Vector from Flows

**Usage**

```
weight_vector(dist_mat, x, weight_col = "count")
```

**Arguments**

dist_mat	distance matrix
x	flows tibble with flow_ID and weight_col
weight_col	column to use as weights (default = "count")

**Value**

numeric weight vector. Each element corresponds to a flow in the distance matrix, and is used as a weight in the DBSCAN clustering algorithm.

**Examples**

```
flows <- sf::st_transform(flows_leeds, 3857)
flows <- head(flows, 100) # for testing
# Add flow lengths and coordinates
flows <- add_flow_length(flows)
flows <- add_xyuv(flows)
# Calculate distances
distances <- flow_distance(flows, alpha = 1.5, beta = 0.5)
dmat <- distance_matrix(distances)
wvec <- weight_vector(dmat, flows, weight_col = "count")
```



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